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ADVENTURES OF A MINOR.

THREE YEARS
A D V E N T U R E S

OF

A Minor,

IN

ENGLAND, AFRICA, THE WEST INDIES,
SOUTH CAROLINA & GEORGIA,

BY


WILLIAM BUTTERWORTH, ENGRAVER.

V O L. I I.

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CHAPTER XI.

Leave Sapello Sound—Extraordinary Conduct of Captain Dale—
Scanty Provisions for the Crew—Dolphins caught occasionally—
Misadventure of Dutch John—Arrive at Guadaloupe, in the
West Indies—Meet with Capt. Jack, an insidious Storekeeper,
who supplies the Crew of the Neptune plentifully with spirits—
Meet with a Countryman, Capt. Grant—Affray between the
Crew of his Vessel and some American Sailors—Sunday Sports
of the Negroes, &c. at Guadaloupe—Celebration of the King
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Jack, the Storekeeper, on the eve of our departure, presents an
exorbitant Account to the Captain of the Neptune—Unpleasant
Method of enforcing Payment—Quit Guadaloupe for Georgia.

Our ship being at length laden, Mr. M'Quin, with that generosity by which he was so eminently distinguished, sent on board, as a present, a considerable quantity of sweet potatoes, and pompions of extraordinary size. We had also a quantity of pickled pork sent us from Messrs. George and Sandy Bailey's, brought by Charles, the black, who entertained us so well with hommony and oatcakes on Herd's Island. Never did I see an old friend's face with more pleasure. Dutch John, James Wilson, and myself hurried to him, to inquire after the health of his wife and two children, and to renew our grateful acknowledgments for past favours. He seemed embarrassed in receiving the thanks which we all so cordially

tendered him, and returned ashore with a smiling countenance.

A fair wind favoured our departure from Sapello Sound, which we left, for the West Indies, all well, except Captain Dale, who, during our first week's sailing, gave proofs that all was not as it should be, his black servant being busily employed in making cataplasms, and spreading and warming plasters. In a jocular way, I asked his servant the ailment of his master, when he, with the address of a well-bred physician, on being asked the same question, looked very significant, shook his head, and said not a word. Captain Dale, in whose temper nature had blended moroseness with irritability, became very unpleasant; nothing could please him. A visible shyness existed between him and Miss King; rendering him petulant in the highest degree, though Captain Coates ascribed it to a severe loss sustained by him, mentioning that a brig of his, commanded by his brother-in-law, John Hebdin, of Scarborough, was wrecked at Du Cayne Bay, Grenada, and nearly all lost.

This might account for the diminution of our allowance of provisions, and their deterioration in quality; boiled rice being substituted for bread, which frequently, in the course of a day, became sour. We excelled in sobriety, not a drop of spirits being served out to us: in fact, had it not been for the sweet potatoes and pompions, and the pickled pork, all presents, we should have been in a pretty

predicament ; little better than our fare on board the *Hudibras*. I ascribed the change to a conviction of the small profit that would accrue from a cargo like ours, after such a sacrifice of time to obtain it. The sweet potatoes, as well as the pompions, were of excellent quality, and would have served the crew, at full allowance, a considerable time, had it not been for the rapacity of an unknown number of unexpected passengers, that had taken wily possession of the fore-hatchway, the very place where these fruits and roots were stored up. These piratical passengers were rats, who ate and destroyed more than all the crew together ; so that we were put on a scanty allowance of salt beef, pickled pork, and rice.

However, as the weather was fine, we enjoyed now and then a change on our passage, by catching, or striking, great numbers of fishes, principally dolphins. The Dutchman was expert at striking them with the fish-gig : so was the Spaniard, though at first it was unknown to all on board : but, being one day at the helm, several large dolphins were sporting together, which I perceived from the stern of the vessel, and pointed them out to him ; he, expressing a strong desire to have a throw at one of them, requested me to take the helm, to enable him to throw the fish-gig. I cheerfully complied, when, in a moment, he struck, and safely landed on board, the largest dolphin I had ever seen. Capt. Coates came upon the quarter-deck, viewed it with pleasure, and

asked the Spaniard if he had been accustomed to use the harpoon? He told the captain, that to strike fish was not any thing new to him. "I am glad of it," said the captain, "I hope you will embrace every opportunity to furnish us with a fresh meal; one eternal round of salt provisions is palling beyond any thing." The Spaniard smiled at the compliment intended him, and resumed his station at the helm. Mynheer eyed the Don as a rival, took offence at what the captain said, and declared he would never strike another.

Thinking it good policy to have a dexterous harpooner in each watch, and these two being in separate ones, I strove to dissuade Dutch John from his resolve, and carried my point: for, the morning after the Spanish sailor had struck the large dolphin, I, being seated on the bowsprit, perceived great numbers of the same kind of fish, as well as of others, named baracootas; and called on the Dutchman, who was below deck, the Spaniard being again at the helm. John answered the call, came from below, and went with me forward to the head of the vessel. Taking the fish-gig, he placed himself on the spritsail yard-arm; my situation was on the yard, close to the bowsprit, where, by means of a cork, with two feathers stuck in it, imitating a flying fish, I was to draw the other fish together, as they are easily deceived by this simple stratagem. But, just when we fancied we saw the completion of our

wishes, and the fish-gig was raised in the Dutchman's right hand, to be hurled at the fish, a very heavy wave met the vessel ; the lift of the spritsail yard gave way ; the yard turned nearly fore and aft, and poor John was thrown under the bows of the ship, so that every time she dipt, he was under water, besides being doused by every large wave that met her. I never expected seeing him strike another dolphin : but John, who had been in perils both on land and in water, and a phlegmatic Dutchman too, took things very coolly, and, with firm grasp, held to the brace and fish-gig, the line of which was fast to one of the man ropes. I could not render him any assistance at first, not having any loose rope near me : but, after a most severe ducking, the vessel ceasing to dip, and the waves to dash against the nearly-exhausted Hollander, I was enabled, by reaching over, to lay hold of him, and assist him to gain the bowsprit. " Dis is not quite as bad as being swamped on de salt marsh of Georgia," said he, as he shook his wide trowsers, and took out of one of their pockets his huge brass tobacco box, to comfort himself with a fresh quid. " It might have been worse," returned I ; then advised him to go to his birth and change his clothes. Cool and collected as he generally was, yet, on this occasion, the fire of passion glistened in his eyes, as he swore a few Dutch oaths at the Spaniard still at the helm, charging him with an intention of drowning him.

Unused to processes of reasoning, I could not see how a Spanish sailor, at the helm of an American brig, could influence a heavy sea so to strike a vessel, that his rival's life, and his alone, should be endangered thereby: to ascertain which, I asked the Dutchman how he could make out his charge? "Very well," answered he, "for de Spaniard, seeing a heavy sea ahead, ought to have eased her; instead of which he luffed her into it, tinkering to see me swept away, den he would have de whole management of de fish-gig." The former part of his observation was new to me, at that time; though I was afterwards convinced of its practicability: but his concluding remark was absurd, and convinced me that jealousy found place in the phlegmatic brain of a Dutchman, as well as in the choleric breast of a Spaniard; in either of which it is a turbulent inmate.

Seldom was a more graceless answer returned to a serious question, than the one given by Thomas Grace, our cook, a black man, who, being asked by Captain Coates "why he stood on the fore-castle without throwing a rope, or rendering any assistance to Dutch John?" replied, "It was not his watch upon deck." The simplicity of Tom's remark excited more laughter than anger; for Tom was respected by all on board: he had never been at sea before he engaged in the Neptune; was a native of Philadelphia, and a stickler for American etiquette.

Our passage to the West Indies was uncommonly pleasant ; no storms created alarm ; no calms delayed, or contrary winds drove us from the desired latitude. The first island that we saw was St. Bartholomew. Proceeding to Guadaloupe, then in possession of the French, and running along the Island, near Basse Terre we spoke an American brig, that had just before come out of the bay. The captain informed ours, that a war was on the eve of breaking out between France and Great Britain ; and that, if he had any Englishmen on board, they would be seized and imprisoned. Not relishing the idea of being immured in a prison, probably for life, I felt all the horrors that a timid imagination could suffer. Captain Dale was not without fear : Captain Coates was recognised as a citizen of America, and consequently would escape molestation.

From a French frigate moored under the fort, we were hailed, as we entered the bay, demanding our captain's presence on board, as soon as we had brought the Neptune up. The demand increased my apprehensions of danger, conceiving it made for the purpose of ascertaining the number of Englishmen on board. As soon as our anchor was let go, four of us rowed Capt. Coates to the French frigate, who immediately mounted its sides, and appeared upon deck. The barge of the frigate was alongside. The boatswain's whistle gave the signal to man the barge, on which some of the French sailors left the

maintop and entered it. Ignorant of the signal, when I saw the men descend the sides of the frigate, I considered myself little better than a prisoner, apprehending that they were commissioned to take us on board for examination; expecting also that they would visit the Neptune, for the same purpose. However, the men took their respective seats without speaking a word: after some short time two officers, and the same number of soldiers, entered their boat, and Capt. Coates ours. The filthy appearance of the frigate corresponded with the dirtiness of the crew, reflecting disgrace on the officers, never known on board the British fleet; where cleanliness is as much attended to as discipline, and where both invigorate the frame, and inspire the mind with courage and fortitude. We left the frigate together; our captain giving us a hint to pull away, as we got a little a-head of the French boat, induced a belief that something of a hostile nature was meditated; which was strengthened by the general appearance of passing circumstances. Never did I pull an oar with more good will, never obeyed an order more promptly. Unequal as the contest was, four oars in the boat of a merchantman against six in one that was well calculated for making way, we still kept a-head: chagrined at the prospect of being beaten, the Frenchmen were put upon their mettle; and to it they fell with all their might; still it would not do: the officers were enraged, and swore at the

men ; still they could not touch us. We, in despite of all their efforts, arrived first at the Neptune, perhaps owing to the different method of our pulling the oars, effected by a smart stroke, called collier's fashion : our opponents' manner of pulling theirs, when at the best, appeared sluggish, rising on their legs at each stroke, and then falling back again to their seats. On entering our ship, the officers and soldiers conversed a little with our captain, but Englishmen were not once mentioned. My mind began to tranquillize, and I now thought the American captain's account was meant to gull us. The officers returned to the frigate, leaving the two soldiers, to perform the duty of our Custom-house officers, or tide-waiters.

Captain Dale, who, with Miss King, now went to furnished lodgings, engaged a mate, an American, of the name of Henry Hodges, a pleasant, good-hearted man, the very opposite of the cashiered Mr. Simpson. Many American vessels were lying there, principally small craft, from different ports. We soon commenced discharging our cargo, which was attended with great difficulty, particularly the large timber, rendering it necessary for us to be in the water, especially when the surf was high. We had not been long at Guadaloupe, before we thought there was some chance of the American captain's information being correct, as a considerable number of troops were training, consisting of mulattoes and negroes.

I soon became acquainted with a commissioned officer, a man of colour, of the black corps, who kept a rum store on the beach : he invited me to his house in the most friendly manner ; I accompanied him, and took a little negus. Before I left, he told me that any of our hands going ashore might have credit at his store, for what they wished to drink ; for, as sailors were honourable men, he never doubted being paid. This frank declaration laid a foundation for extravagance, as our men, after being informed of Capt. Jack's kindness, seldom went ashore without paying him a visit, having nothing to do but to mention the name of the vessel to which they belonged.

This system, I soon perceived, was ruinous in its consequences, and I therefore wished for its abolition ; for, as some of our crew found out that Jack kept no regular or distinct accounts, but lumped all together, they paid him too many visits for the sober and reflective part to remain satisfied. I repeatedly, but in vain, asked for my own account, desirous to avoid any unpleasantness ; in vain I requested an account of the aggregate of our joint expenses, that I might pay my proportion thereof, and have done with it. Unable to gain either, like the man who cut off his nose to be revenged on his face, I set fairly to, joined any of the crew that went to the store, and became as good a bacchanalian as the best ; though I constantly kept in mind the day of

reckoning, assured that it would come, and perhaps at a time when we should be ill prepared to meet it. So true is it, that "evil communications corrupt good manners;" and that "one scabbed sheep infects a whole flock."

Circumstances, trifling in themselves, often afford pleasure, from the unexpectedness of their occurrence; as an illustration of which, I may mention the gratification experienced by a Captain Grant, of a water-vessel, from Antigua, who brought up near us, on discovering, when he came on board the *Nep-tune*, that Capt. Dale, Capt. Coates, and I were all from the same county with himself; he being from Sheffield, in Yorkshire, in which town many of my relations were well known to him, and highly respected by him. No sooner was he in possession of my name and family, than he proposed placing me in a comfortable situation, if I would accompany him to Antigua, where he kept a general store, as well as several small vessels, for the purpose of fetching water from Guadaloupe to that Island, and himself visiting Guadaloupe occasionally, for the purpose of purchasing French wines, brandy, &c. Assured by Capt. Grant, that the situation he could place me in would be a confidential and advantageous one, I asked Captain Coates if he would permit me to embrace it. He wishing me to remain with him, raised strong objections to the arrangement, with which I acquainted Mr. Grant, the first opportunity

I had of seeing him, who, anxious to befriend me, promised to wait on our captain himself; which he did, though unavailingly, Capt. Coates being determined not to part with me. Expressing regret that he could not befriend me as he wished, with honour to himself, he presented me with a small keg of brandy.

As the crew of Mr. Grant's vessel were English and Irish, I made an appointment to meet them at the store, where our hands had unlimited credit. On inquiring the time of meeting,—“The better day, the better deed,” said an Irishman; so Sunday was fixed on: accordingly we met at the time and place proposed, to the number of seven. Bent on diversion, as well as drinking, we soon procured a fiddler, a negro, who, though no Orpheus, played infinitely better than Mr. M'Cleod, of Darien. Towards evening, when in the midst of our pleasure, three American sailors very abruptly entered the room; but, on finding us a select, though not a silent party, apologized for their intrusion: we excused their freedom, and desired them to be seated. Their costume had to me a novel appearance, each sporting a white shirt, striped trowsers, hairy cap, and hair-powder. Sailor-like, they soon made a large quantity of spirits vanish, though they could not free themselves from their influence, under which, one of them requested of us permission to stand up in a reel. It was granted, and Mungo

struck up a tune ; to it they went, as if determined to do a good day's work in a little time.

For a few minutes all was harmony, except the music ; but I was soon convinced of the truth of the old adage, " Jack will never make a gentleman : " for, grown bold through indulgence, and impudent through intoxication, the American sailor, when either of our men's backs were towards him, took the liberty of kicking their posteriors. This was too much for English sailors to witness tamely, though at the first it was considered as done in jest ; but forbearance encouraged presumption, and he who danced but by permission, began to kick with double violence. Indignant at such conduct, some of our party desired the young man either to conduct himself like a man, or to sit down, whichever he chose. But he choosing to do neither, the other two gave up the dance. The other two American sailors asked permission to succeed them ; and our party willing to oblige, and being on the point of leaving the house, readily consented ; but we soon regretted having complied with their request, for the dance was now carried on in the most vulgar manner ; oaths and exclamations, seldom heard in England, except in a brothel, or at Billingsgate, were vociferated by one, laughed at by a second, and encored by the third. Kicking each other became general, and the black fiddler's efforts were drowned in their loud and hideous yells, rivalling the savages of their own country.

If there is a possibility of forbearance becoming culpable, blame must have attached itself to our party, in not expelling them the room when they first violated the rules of decorum. The cool calculating genius of the Scots is not more proverbial, or better merited, than the quick apprehension and native bravery of the Irish, when roused to words or blows by insults. Notwithstanding national prejudices, I was highly gratified with the spirit of Irish Jack, belonging to Capt. Grant's vessel, who, after eying the three unmannerly American sailors with fixed attention for some time, addressed them with, "Gentlemen, you ought to be ashamed of your conduct, so you ought: we don't intend being bothered any more with your pilliloo howlings, and so, if you cannot behave dacently, lave the room, or, by the beard of St. Patrick, we'll drive you out, as that holy man drove the snakes out of Ireland." Jack looked as if he meant what he said. If there is truth in the observation, that "man wants as much sense as he has pride," ignorant indeed must have been the three young citizens, of which appellation they were particularly proud, as well as of their dress and supposed superiority; which pride was sensibly touched by the homely speech of the Irishman. An immediate challenge from one of them, to fight with either fists or snappers, was readily and gladly accepted by Jack. Snappers, or pistols, were not to be had; therefore to it they set

with fists, without stirring out of the room. When, in a very short time, Jack gave his antagonist such a drubbing, that he was unfit to leave the room; his smart dress, that so lately was nearly all white, now appeared black and red, being covered with dirt and blood. Unable any longer to stand against the powerful arm of the Irishman, who with a tough shilelah had softened many a pate at Donnybrook fair, he sneaked into a corner of the room, and very composedly laid himself down on a sail. "Gentlemen," said the victor, addressing himself to the other two aggressors, "if either of you wish to have a little divarsion, I am your humble servant. I never kissed the blarney-stone, and hate flattery; but, may I never ate another potato, if I don't give you both a big bating, if you dare to insult either the shamrock or rose in the presence of an Irishman."

Low as I was in cash, I would have given the last dollar I had in the world, could the Mullingar nurse at Grenada have seen her countryman thrash one, and silence the other two, of these coxcomical sailors, who now expressed a desire to be friendly with us. We drank a little wine and water together, in seeming amity; during which time one of the Americans slipt out, and soon returned with a strong reinforcement of sailors, his own countrymen. The motive of their visit soon became evident: taking seats, some of them inquired what had been to do? and asked how the quarrel originated? To a detailed

account of the whole affair, they listened with apparent attention, and affected regret at the fracas happening. But their sorrow consisted in words merely, dictated by dissimulation; for, no sooner was dancing discontinued, than one of the Americans, who particularly lamented that any thing unpleasant should exist amongst them, proposed a song; consent followed the proposition, when another immediately commenced a song, descriptive of the success of the American troops over those of the mother country. The intention of this doggrel composition was too evident to be misconstrued; the chorus to each verse ran thus—

“ To see the English soldiers, who on the ground did lie,
“ That were killed and wounded by the Boys of Liberty.”

Enthusiastic plaudits, accompanied by immoderate bursts of laughter, bespoke the feelings of the Americans, each commenting on the truth of the ditty; when silence was requested, for a song from our side of the room. As soon as all were tolerably silent, the Irishman, with that confidence for which the sons of Erin are noted, roared out with manly voice—

“ As for the brags of Washington, we do not care a pin,
“ We’ll batter at his breast-works, and make him let us in,” &c.

The tide of pleasure began to ebb on the American side of the house, after the singing of the above couplet; before the song was finished, it was low

water with them, and they could make no way, notwithstanding they attempted to keep afloat, by singing song for song with our party, for some time ; however, all would not do, and they grounded on the quicksands of disappointment. A sullen gloom overspread their brows, and a man, without the aid of necromancy, could foresee a gathering storm. Our bill of expenses remained unpaid, and I began to quake, for the consequences of what I saw was likely to take place : for, as Capt. Grant's vessel was expected sailing on the following day, and as I should be the only one of the party left on the Island, on whom the chagrined Boys of Liberty could take the liberty of wreaking their vengeance (though I would not desert my party), I did not like to act openly against the men amongst whom I was going to remain. Policy whispered in my ear to take the sense of the party on the subject. I did so, by breaking it to Irish Jack, who, in a voice loud enough to be heard by the intruders, if other matters had not engrossed them, said, " The devil burn the first Yankey that hurts you, my boy. By my sowl, but I'll give him such another bating, as Biddy O'Brien gives her linen with a beetle in the Liffey." When I hinted to him that he would be gone away, " Then I'll bate 'em for it beforehand," said he, " so dont bother yourself any more at all about it ; you are only a sprig now ; the best Irish shilelah that ever broke a head was once no more ; do you

take care of yourself, and, Musha, good luck to you ! We have force and courage enough to bother, if not to bate, a whole navy of Yankeys ; and may I never taste a drop of usquebagh on St. Patrick's day, if we dont give them thirteen stripes to the dozen !”

Our opponents, during this observation, were in close conversation, often in whispers : our party observed the same caution, particularly when arranging the plan of attack or defence, as circumstances should point out. Each proposed his own plan, but the Irishman's was approved the most, which was very simple ; being no other than, when occasion demanded, to break one of the chairs into pieces, with which each was to arm himself, and simultaneously attack the offending Americans. The time of action soon drew near ; when, smash went a chair, by a stroke on the floor, and in an instant the whole of the demolished piece of furniture was seized by Mr. Grant's crew, who waited for no other signal than the taunting provocations they were receiving. Bang ! fell a heavy blow from the arm of Irish Jack, on the right arm of the most powerful-looking American : thump ! went another on the brawny shoulders of a second : and now, like furies, all were laying about them. Heads, breasts, faces, all were subject to blows from the broken chair. The Americans were confused by the suddenness of the measure, and could make but little resistance, though they exceeded our party in numbers, independent

of my being rendered useless, from the circumstance related. Confused, chagrined, and well drubbed, they flew to the door, but could not open it. Irish Jack skipped and danced about, like harlequin in a pantomime; and, like that fantastic being, belaboured all who opposed him, with a more substantial weapon than a wand, which seemed to act like magic on all whom he struck, causing them to leap through the window that faced the sea, and had been shattered to pieces in the contest. Astley's equestrian troop never vaulted with celerity equal to the agility displayed by the macaroni Americans, as they darted through the window: out of which I also leaped, bidding good bye, and wishing success to the hero of this tragi-comic farce,—the Irishman, who, with the rest of the triumphant party, reached his vessel without molestation, and set sail the next morning, with a fine breeze, for Antigua. As it was nearly eight o'clock p. m. and as I apprehended the soldiers would make their appearance, I scampered away to the Neptune, nor once looked behind me.

Having occasion to go ashore early the next day, my way lying past the guard-house, I had the gratification to see in "durance vile," the three powdered beaux, whose insolence created the fracas; and I never saw three braggadocios more cowed, or more disfigured. Desirous of reconnoitering a little, I loitered about the guard-house; on perceiving it, a French soldier came up to me, and, in English, in-

quired if I knew them? or the cause of their confinement? I briefly recapitulated the rencontre; he seemed pleased at the pickle they were in, observing that he knew not which were the most degenerate, the Americans or the Spaniards. In the course of the day, I paid a pop-visit to Captain Jack's, who informed me that he had not received any money, either for liquor or damages, from the Americans or English. Some of the former, he said he knew, and would try what he could obtain from them. Convinced that the expense would be serious for wine, grog, and other liquors, together with broken windows, and the chair converted into offensive weapons, the whole of which might fall upon me, I felt rather alarmed; which he perceiving, bade me not to suffer my spirits to be depressed, nor to forsake his store, for that all would be right in the long run. I assured him I should never forget him; and I believe I never shall. I thought him the most generous man on earth; but he was a man of business, and knew full well how to manage his own affairs; which he convinced us of, when we were on the point of leaving Basse Terre.

Having already noticed that, at Grenada, Sunday was the negroes' holiday, which they devoted to festivity and manly exercises, it may astonish and excite pity in the breast of the regenerated Christian, and afford a moment's relaxation from severer studies to the formal one, to detail some of the amusements

practised at Guadaloupe on a Sunday afternoon ; which I took every opportunity of witnessing. The ground appropriated to festive scenes was well chosen, being pleasantly situated on the summit of a hill, a little out of the town. When the congregated negroes and others met, they formed circles, one within another, the young people always forming the innermost, and seated themselves on the ground. Numerous were the circles ; those forming the outermost always standing up. The greatest order prevailed in forming the respective circles, each knowing to which he belonged : the mustees had their circle, the mulattoes theirs : another consisted of the sambo, and a fourth of the blacks.

The circles composed of females were particular in keeping themselves select, not a male of any description being allowed to interfere with them, on any account whatever : they principally consisted of domestic servants, and many of them had claims to beauty, which simplicity of dress wonderfully improved. They added gracefulness to personal flexibility, and pliancy of limbs, which appeared to the greatest advantage, when performing the evolutions of the mazy dance, which, together with singing, constituted the whole of their amusements. Unencumbered by their dress, which consisted of a white dimity petticoat, very short ; a shawl tastefully tied round the head ; and another hanging pendant, like a sash, the ends being tied together on the shoulders, their weight

scarcely pressed the ground over which they bounded, with the agility of fairies. Many-coloured beads glittered on the arms and wrists of most of them ; large ear-rings, considered ornamental, distinguished some ; and all sported necklaces round their necks, some of which the finest sculptors might be proud to copy, as models of symmetry.

Infinitely more gratifying to me were the dances of the females, executed with taste and judgment, than the sports of the men. The different parties of the latter have small flags attached to poles, resembling English camp colours ; these flags are of different colours, to distinguish one set from another. When the circles are formed, the music strikes up, consisting of humstrums, an instrument somewhat like a guitar ; drums ; and rattles, made by enclosing a number of small pebbles in the firm-textured shell of the cocoa nut, of themselves more discordant than the drone of a bagpipe. Should the amusements of the day commence with playing at single-sticks, the person who proved victorious the preceding Sunday enters the circle, assuming as much consequence as an Eastern nabob ; strutting about in fancied greatness, and surveying the sticks, which are placed on the ground, without baskets or any thing else to guard the hand. Seldom has he long to pace the " circle's bound," before he meets with an opponent, who also enters the circle ; two tellers are then appointed, who act as umpires. The com-

batants, after taking up the sticks, approach each other very gracefully, shake hands cordially, separate, take their ground, and commence the contest, to the sound of "sweet minstrelsy," if such it may be called: the music playing all the time, and keeping the whole in good humour. Men of equal science often contend a considerable time, without either obtaining any advantage over the other, hitting stroke for stroke, which does not count to either: when they have received one stroke each, the tellers call out, one, one: when either of them strikes another stroke, it is called, one, two: another, one, three; and lastly, one, four; which terminates the contest. He who has received three strokes a-head, very good humouredly lays down his stick, and retires in perfect composure.

Another favourite amusement is tuppung, generally practised by negroes; for which purpose their woolly hair is suffered to grow on the top of their heads, whilst that from behind is cut away, and frizzled in amongst that left on the top, which forms a kind of cushion, or firm tuft of hair. The ring being formed as before, the music again strikes up, and the victorious tupper of the last Sunday's encounter enters the ring, endeavouring to surpass in dignified appearance the champion of single sticks. Any one wishing to try the hardness of his head enters the circle, marches up to, and shakes hands with the fortunate tupper: after which the music changes to a

common jig tune, to which the opposing combatants dance with careless gaiety, frequently exchanging smiles, and significantly nodding their heads at each other. They then separate, withdrawing a few yards from each other, still dancing, jumping, and nodding the head: now stooping forward, with hands clasped upon their backs, they advance towards each other, with the spirit and caution of game cocks, that have been pitted before, each panting for victory. When within a yard and a half of each other, the music ceases; the tuppors pause for a moment, and eye each other with the steadfast gaze of scientific pugilists; when, as if by mutual impulse, both dart forward, head against head, like two rams! The velocity with which they spring forward, makes their skulls ring, and the concussion is so great from the butting, that they rebound to a considerable distance, where they remain several seconds of time, in the very position they happen to fall, as if transfixed to the spot. The music's merry notes reanimate the tuppors, whose agile limbs are again in motion, dancing, &c. as before. It frequently happens that both are down at the same time; in which case both remain motionless, till roused into action by the music. The contest is decided by one of them coming to the ground, whether by accident or a tup: in either case, the vanquished never once shows ill nature, or animosity towards the other. Wrestling and boxing are carried on in a similar manner; the

man who brings his adversary fairly to the ground claims the victory. One circle, comprising male and female negroes, amused themselves with dancing to African music, produced from drums of different sizes, or any sonorous body. The strangest instrument I ever saw was a raisin jar, which was placed between the legs of a person sitting on the ground, who produced a sound, by beating on the open end thereof. The dance performed by this circle appeared calculated to excite the passions, of which they are eminently susceptible.

The firing of the evening gun is the signal to terminate the amusements for the day. The mustees and mulattoes leave the ground first, followed by the other groups, the victors bearing flags and heading their party, leading them into the town, so that any one who has not been to see the sports may know the heroes of the day. On entering the town, the assembled multitude, in the most peaceable and orderly manner, fall out of the procession, as they arrive at their respective homes, till all are dispersed. Much to the credit of these men of colour, I never witnessed the least unpleasantness amongst them at these meetings, though I embraced every opportunity of being present at them. The only exception to this observation arose from Tom Grace, our black cook, defeating one of the tuppens, which would not have manifested itself, had he been one of the party. From the description I had given to Tom of these

amusements, after having seen them once, he expressed a strong desire to see them: the Sunday following, we went together to the ground, where we arrived sufficiently soon to witness a tuppung match. One was soon defeated, when Tom, being rather groggy, and more forward to tup than to render assistance to a man nearly drowned, because it was not his watch upon deck, wished to have a touch with his battering ram, as he jocosely termed his head. His desire was announced, and readily complied with. "Now, Darby," said he to me, (which was a nickname given me, when swampt on the salt marsh of Georgia, by the Dutchman and James Wilson, who, because I could bear hunger, thirst, and fatigue better than themselves, said, I was like Darby Carey, could scud to windward in a shoe), "Now, Darby, you will see me capsize one of these fellows in a crack!" "You will crack your own head first," said I, at the conceit of which Tom laughed pretty loudly. The person with whom our cook was to contend was a stout young man, then master of the ring, elate with success, but not equal in strength to Tom, who was very powerful: besides, being a native of Philadelphia, he assumed something on the strength of his freedom. As soon as they entered the circle, the jig tune commenced, and both began to dance: in which Tom, being unpractised, appeared to great disadvantage. However, when the grand attack was made,

he made good his word, capsizing his antagonist with a vengeance, who fell, end over end, and quietly withdrew, thereby acknowledging himself vanquished. Tom remained in the ring, until desired, by a person in an angry tone, to withdraw, as he, being a stranger, had no right to interfere with them. Whether it was an established rule, not to suffer strangers to risk a broken head, or whether it was that the event turned out so unexpectedly, may be guessed at by the reader, from the readiness with which Tom was allowed to enter the ring, when it was well known that he was a stranger. Several others expressing disapprobation, I advised and persuaded him to accompany me to the Neptune.

In about a week after our black cook had defeated his tuppung antagonist, I had an opportunity of seeing the manner in which the French colonists, &c. commemorated the anniversary of the birth-day of their Sovereign. A discharge of artillery from the fort batteries, and from the guns of the filthy-looking frigate, announced the arrival of the wished-for day; the afternoon and evening of which I was ashore, highly gratified with the preparations making for a grand proeession, which was to move by toreh-light. Soldiers were actively employed in fixing strong iron rods in the streets leading to the Mansion-house; on the ends of these rods, plaeced perpendieularly to the horizon, were cups, surmounted by three or four iron hoops, in which a quantity of

pitch, or tar, together with short pieces of old rope, were put ; also an iron fork, for the purpose of stirring up the contents of the cups, and supplying them with fresh combustibles, when once lighted. Numbers of torches were delivered to the soldiers, who were to line the streets during the time of the procession moving through them : a serjeant was placed at each of the iron rods, in the streets, in order to preserve decorum. Eight o'clock p. m. was the time appointed for the procession to commence moving, being the very hour that all sailors were enjoined to be on board their respective ships. As there were three others besides myself ashore, we were apprehensive that we should be prevented witnessing the spectacle, unless we could elude the soldiers by mixing amongst the numerous spectators, who were of all colours, and diversified costumes. The procession was formed, at the head of which were the Governor and suite, all the Military and Naval Officers, the Magistrates and Merchants ; followed by the most respectable inhabitants. The pageant might be pleasing and grand to such as obtained a fair view of it ; but, what with being rather alarmed, the pressure of the populace, and the dense columns of smoke issuing from the tar, &c. I was prevented seeing it to any advantage ; besides which, just as the approach of the procession was announced, a soldier discovered us peeping amongst the crowd, and coming up to us told us to be off

about our business ; speaking in a very angry tone, in English and French ; at the same time pushing us with the butt-end of his musket. On observing this conduct, another soldier came up to us, who, on discovering us to be sailors, talked more mildly than his comrade, entreating us to remove from that place, saying that if they suffered us to remain, they subjected themselves to punishment. We removed to another place, but were soon assailed by others of the military. After we had been driven about from pillar to post, a French officer came up, commanding the soldiers to let us remain unmolested, in order that we might see the procession pass, requesting us to repair on board our ship immediately after.

When the whole had passed, we set off towards the beach, expecting there to find our boat. Our road lay over a bridge, and past a guard-house near to it, which, if we could not pass without discovery, we intended telling the centinel that we had leave from one of the officers. The place being narrow, we were observed, and hailed by the centinel, to whom not giving the counter sign, the guard instantly turned out, making us prisoners, and marched us into the guard-house, where we expected remaining till morning, and then could only hope for liberation on paying a fine of about four dollars, the usual exaction for being found ashore after eight, p. m. But, as fortune would have

it, at the moment when discontent began to shed its sombre influence over our minds, the captain of the guard entered the room, who, to our surprise and satisfaction, proved to be the identical officer who rescued us from the rough salutes of the soldiers, and granted us permission to remain there till the whole procession passed. Finding us punctual in attempting to keep our promise, he not only liberated us, but, in the most gentlemanly manner, accompanied us to the beach, to prevent further molestation. As we entered our boat, we gave him our thanks, in homely language, which he expressed satisfaction in receiving, as he very politely observed, that though English sailors were blunt, and often unlettered, he believed they were as grateful as courageous; which latter quality their greatest enemies admired and dreaded. He then returned to the town, and we on board.

As soon as our vessel was discharged, we took in stone ballast, a few puncheons of rum, and hogsheads of molasses, and prepared to leave Basse Terre; where poor Miss King was left, deserted by Captain Dale, who, with his black servant, now came on board. We were more than ever convinced that all was not well with him, as we were on shorter allowance than usual, and had not a drop of spirits, unless we purchased it ourselves; which indeed we did, to a serious amount, collectively, on tick, at Capt. Jack's store. This man's account remained unknown to us, being

unpresented to any one till the day previous to our sailing ; on which day he and a son of his came on board, bringing with them, as a present, a basket of oranges ; also our account, which he delivered to Capt. Coates, who, on looking it over, turned red, bit his lips, and stormed like one beside himself. The unconcerned manner in which the storekeeper heard himself abused incensed our captain, who, when he saw Capt. Jack smile contemptuously on him, bestowed on the dispassionate man of colour, scurrility's worst epithets, swearing that if he did not immediately return to his boat, he would make a present of him to the fishes, just to see if they would be at the trouble to dissect so worthless a carcase. " Capitain," said the officer of the black corps, undisturbed by abusive language, " we must have de money, or me will go to de General."—" Go and be d—d, rascal," returned our captain, " you have imposed on my hands in the most scandalous manner ; so begone, if you don't covet a sea-bathing." Untimely were the threats of Capt. Coates, who had not got a Tyro to deal with, but one cool and collected as a stoical philosopher ; who, previous to going ashore, shook hands with his customers individually, wishing each a pleasant and prosperous voyage.

The frank manner in which he addressed us all, together with his subsequent silence, not hearing another word on the subject before we got under way, induced a belief in some, that we had got rid

of our debts very comfortably. But we were soon undeceived, and convinced that Captain Jack knew how to recover debts, in a more summary way than an English Court of Conscience. For we had no sooner unfurled our sails and weighed anchor, than we were saluted by a shot from a battery! Captain Coates, rightly divining the cause, became rather alarmed; and more so, when a boat was seen putting off from shore, in which were perceived an officer and a number of soldiers. She was soon alongside of us, when the officer unceremoniously told our captain that he must go ashore with him immediately. Hesitation would have availed nothing; no time was allowed for a single question to be asked, but down he must get into the boat, and ashore he must go, to make satisfaction for exorbitant charges, made by Captain Jack, under the delusive pretence of unlimited credit, with a certainty of recovering them by means of military coercion.

Every one on board surmised the cause; black Jack and the General were wished at the devil a thousand times over, and each swore he would never be such a fool again. On our captain's return, we found that he had not only paid whatever we were charged with at the rum-store, but also four dollars for the salute from the battery, which, he said, he should place to our account; the amount of which we never knew, till we received our wages in Georgia. The captain of the black corps' account was then

laid before us, when each had to pay, share and share alike, for wine, rum, broken windows, and the chair broken by Irish Jack, together with the four dollars for powder and shot fired at us from the battery, when we thought of sheering off, without troubling ourselves about the account in question. It would have puzzled the greatest arithmetician to understand any more of the bill than the aggregate; no dates, no names, except that of Neptune; which, from the quantity of grog charged, might induce a belief that Bacchus would have been more appropriate. However, as I was in at the boozing-bout when the windows and chair were demolished, and had swigged pretty freely, after asking in vain for my account, I could not grumble at an arrangement founded on the principle of equality, which was a term just coming into vogue; much talked about, little understood; in theory captivating, in practice disappointing.

CHAPTER XII.

The Ship leaves Guadaloupe—Pretensions of Dutch John to Conjur-
ation—His mode of exercising his powers—Arrive at the
Island of St. Simon, in Georgia—Adventure in a search for
Clams—Deplorable State to which the Georgians were reduced
by the Indian War—Mode of taking Skate—Unexpected
Interview with Quashee—Crew of the Neptune paid off, and
defrauded by Captain Dale—All the Men quit the Ship—
Proceedings on Shore—The Author induced by the entreaties
of Captain Coates to return to the Ship, together with some of
his Messmates—Take the Vessel up the River for a Cargo of
Timber—Difficulty and Danger of obtaining Water—Savage
Attack of the Indians made at a short distance from the Ship—
Cowardice of Captains Dale and Coates—Laughable Adventure
on Shore—The Indians burn the adjoining Forests.

FAVOURED with a gentle breeze, we left Guada-
loupe for Georgia; I, with a heart oppressed by
the consideration, that, after spending eight or nine
months on board the Neptune, which I first entered
under the idea of her ultimate destination being
England, I was still no nearer the accomplishment
of my wishes, as far as respected my return home.
I now began to feel the truth of that declaration,
“hope deferred maketh the heart sick;” and might
have suffered much from the keenness of reflection,
had not some occurrences with Dutch John, on our
passage, diverted my mind from thinking.

One of these was particularly calculated to chase despondency from the mind. My curiosity was strongly excited, to discover how Mynheer, who was not, any more than any of us, allowed a drop of spirits, held nightly intercourse with some one or more whilst on watch. As I was in the same watch as he, and knew that he had no liquors of his own, I could not imagine how he contrived to get intoxicated during the night; till, finding him in a good humour, half-seas over, in which trim he was always mighty cunning, professing to deal in negromancy, as he called conjuration; of which he had talked so long and so often, that he had nearly imposed upon himself a belief that he was a conjuror. I remarked to him, "John, I have puzzled my poor brain, to no purpose, to find out how you are so much cleverer than Francisco,* not only at striking fish, but at procuring spirits; you certainly must deal with some invisible beings, who grant you such power."—"Yaw, Darby, you are recht;" said John, hitching up his trowsers: "I have all de spirits at my call, oder (either) de rums; oder de brandys; oder de gins."—"These are your familiars," said I, jokingly, "but I am at a loss to know how you have them so much at command."—"Dere be de grand secret," rejoined the knowing Dutchman. "Dat be it, dat do de Dutchman so much goot. When I

* Francisco and Martino left the ship on our arrival at Basse Terre.

bees very dry, de spirits do com widout any coaxing." He had forgot the salt marsh of Georgia, when nearly exhausted from thirst! "Doctor Faustus," said I, "had his familiars too."—"Yaw, Darby," said John, "so de ignorant peoples say; I have a metod of mine own; vill you take de rum vit me, Darby?"—"And thank you too," said I. "Very goot," replied he, and immediately furnished me with some.

More desirous to ascertain his method of obtaining spirits, than to partake of them when obtained, I used various artifices to earry my point; praised the extent of his knowledge; frequently pledged the cracked delf mug, out of which we drank the rum; and hoped that his countrymen would do justice to him while living. Though he swallowed flattery with as much avidity as he did the boiling hommony in black Charles's hut, on Hird's Island, still it failed to extract the seeret from him, as he aeted with duplicity at the very time when he promised to inform me of the grand secret, on eondition of never revealing it to any one. "Coom here, Darby," said he, rearing his baek against the mainmast, and pulling me to him by the arm. "Now, Darby, as I finds you de elever boy, I vill tell you all about it. I have de wonderous gimlet of mine own, vitch I would not take any thing for; not all de ducats in de stadtholder's locker should make me part mit mine gimlet: mit vitch I bores de little hole into any

piece of woot, ven, if I vants rums, out de rums coom; if I vants de brandys, de brandys coom; if I vants mine own country's spirits, de geneva will coom." All this mummary the Dutchman advanced, with as much gravity as if dictated by truth; to the whole of which I seemed to assent, by not contradicting him. On expressing a desire to possess such a wonder-working instrument, "Coom nearer, Darby," said he, "and I will tell you how mine gimlet vas made by mineself; but I tink you would not do as I did for mine. I tink nobodys cannot hear us, Darby; for it vas a dreadful night, and a bloody piece of work (I affected the greatest attention). Mine gimlet was prepared —— Now, you vill never tell —— Now, suppose dis a room, in vitch your greatest friend is asleep; now, mind vat I say; —— but, you must never make such a gimlet —— Vell, here is de room; mit a piece of chalk I made de circle on de floor, den said a prayer, den crept softly up to de bedside, dus, dus (stepping from me very cautiously), den I stuck de man, ven asleep, and him bled like de pig; den mit mine gimlet I bored de hole troo hims head, and den it vas completed: but I tink you vill never do as I did for mine." I assured him I would not, for all the gimlets in the world, in a tone indicative of a belief that what he said was true; though I had two reasons for believing he was no conjuror: one was, his obstinacy in piloting us into the creek filled with alligators; the

other was, his desire to bribe those alligators with our beef. Convinced, however, that he had a method of obtaining rum, it put me on the alert to discover it.

A few nights after he had told his method of preparing his talismanic gimlet, being on watch together upon deck, I asked him if he had any spirits? to which he replied, no; but that he soon could, if he did not think we should be better without. I fancied he had plenty, as he was intoxicated, but urged him to favour me with a little; hoping to be able to find him out with his gimlet. He consented to get me a little of the rums, and, without hesitation, went below into the steerage; as soon as he was out of sight, I lay down on the deck, and, applying my ear close to the hatchway, heard him enter the hold: there being no bulkhead rendered access easy. In a few minutes he returned, without any thing, saying, in a little time the rums will come: his remark caused me to think that he made use of a very small gimlet, too short in the blade to bore through the head of a man, let his knack at murdering a sleeping friend, and muttering over a prayer, be ever so facile. So, feigning an excuse to go below, expecting to hear a dribbling from some of the rum puncheons, where he might have applied his gimlet, I listened with as much solicitude as peace-destroying jealousy, who construes the breathing of sleeping innocence into the whispers of meretricious love; but, like that wretch, listened without

having my suspicions realized. Away I crept, and descended into the hold, to feel if any of the bungs were started from the ten puncheons of rum. The first, second, third, and so on, were all tight and secure, till I came to the ninth, the bung of which was removed, and superseded by a quart glass bottle, resting on its shoulders, bottom upwards, with neck immersed in rum. "This," said I to myself, "is Johnny's skull-boring gimlet," as I removed the bottle, replacing the bung previous to coming upon deck.

After concealing the bottle in the boat, though not before ascertaining its contents to be little better or stronger than water, I inquired of the dealer in spirits if he had succeeded? "Not yet," he replied, "but I soon shall have de rum." In expectation of which he went below, humming to himself the fag end of a Dutch song, extolling the genius of his countrymen, fertile in invention, matchless in execution. After remaining some time, he returned, rather peevish: during his search for the bottle, I had provided myself with a tin can, which I held out to him, requesting a little, as if confident of his success. Unwilling to acknowledge himself foiled in having spirits at command, yet unable to account for the removal of the bottle, not at all suspecting me, the chagrined conjuror, out conjured, answered in a very sullen tone, "I have none! I did not want any mineself, derefore de spirits would not

coom." "Perhaps," said I, "you have lost your gimlet?" He shrugged up his shoulders, shook his head, but spoke not a word. "Do you know, John," said I, "the idea of your chalked circle, sleeping friend, and scull-drilling gimlet, impressed my mind so forcibly that, waking or sleeping, I could think of nothing else; and, last night, I dreamt that——now, you will never tell——a quart bottle"——John placed his hands on his hips——"now, mind what I say"——he fixt his eyes attentively on me——"that a quart bottle"——"You have stole mine gimlet, Darby," said he, seizing me by the breast, with both his hands——"If a glass bottle is your gimlet," said I, "it is in the boat"——he smiled, and let go his hold; when I reached the bottle out of the boat. "Ah, Darby," said John, "I always tought you de clever boy! let me taste at de rum." Handing him the bottle, he took a hearty swig, but soon spirted a mouthful out, exclaiming, "Dance mine bloot! it be nothing boot de vater; had it staid dere till dis time, it would have been de rums!"

As I was no experimental philosopher, and had never heard of water being changed into rum, I thought Mynheer was inclined to return to his conjuring tricks, with his circles, prayers, and gimlets; particularly as he cautioned me against disclosing the grand secret. And, if I had not seen the experiment tried, I should have concluded, that the whole was

a trick of one, "fertile in invention, matchless in execution." John's plan of raising spirits, when explained, was more philosophic than necromantic. The bottle, being filled with fresh water, was placed as I found it, in the bung-hole of the rum puncheon, without cork ; the neck of the bottle was in contact with the rum, when the water, whose specific gravity is greater than that of the spirit, descended out of the bottle, into which the most volatile part of the liquor was pressed : and thus did John obtain his spirits, without the aid of a talismanic gimlet, prepared by boring a hole through the head of a sleeping friend, previously murdered.

After a quick passage, we made the island of Saint Simon, in Georgia ; lay off the bar some short time for a pilot, who took us into St. Simon's sound, between the island of Jekyl and that of St. Simon ; where, letting go our anchor, we brought up, opposite the residence of a Mr. Club, who came on board, much dejected, in consequence of having recently lost a son from the bite of a rattle-snake, and having sustained heavy losses on the main, from the incursions of the Indians, who, in four or five months, had made dreadful progress. During our week's stay here, I was frequently ashore, and paid several visits to Mr. Club, at his request. His daughters were trained to useful industry, either spinning with the hand wheel, or weaving. He introduced me to a Major Tomkins, a near neighbour

of his, who had borne a commission in the American army, and who, like the bulk of disbanded American officers, was badly rigged ; making a miserable appearance, compared with the half-pay officers in the British service. In his miserable-looking shingle-built house, we took a little rum and water ; though I fancied we were unwelcome visitors, as he scarcely deigned to open his mouth during our stay. He appeared to have more pride than pigs or poultry, and more gravity than garden. Mr. Club presented me with a number of eggs, which I took on board ; and he also informed me where I might get plenty of clams, a shell-fish, in shape like the cockle, but smooth, and in colour like the muscle.

The place he pointed out was at the end of Jekyl Island, opposite Cumberland Island ; which place, accompanied by some of my messmates, I visited on a Sunday, having previously obtained leave of our captain. Disappointed of our ship's boat, we engaged a canoe, made by some negroes ; it was lopsided, and, in other respects, out of all repair ; in which, after stowing some beef and biscuits, we paddled over the sound to Jekyl, and proceeded to the place along the shore, where we expected meeting with clams in the greatest abundance. But after all our endeavours, we could not find more than half a peck : they are found, like cockles, in the sand, at the time of low water ; those we found were at the mouth of a small rivulet. Rather dis-

appointed in our expectations, we resolved to console ourselves as far as lay in our power. Accordingly, we refreshed ourselves with such as the canoe afforded, and were preparing to leave the beach, when a thunder-storm came on, and an impetuous wind arose, preventing us setting off in the lobsided canoe, which we hauled out of the water. The rain poured out of the clouds, as each flash of lightning made its escape ; and off we scampered towards a wood for shelter. The race between the cooper of the Preston and the black thief, on the coast of Africa, was not better contested, though swifter, than ours.

So little acquainted is man with what is passing out of the sphere of his own immediate action, that, had it not been for a strong desire to get some clams, which are in themselves insignificant, and, for a thunder-storm happening before we had left the beach, I should have missed witnessing a scene, which, to me, was as gratifying as unexpected, and convinced me that “wonders never cease.” In the wood, at a considerable distance from the water, we found the skeleton of a whale, of a large size. Anxious to surprise our captain, and such of the crew as remained on board, I desired one of our men to assist me in bringing part of the bone away, as a curiosity, and a proof of the existence of so strange a fact. In vain I asked the whole party ; some laughed at my foolish notions ; others swore

that I had the phiz of an antiquarian ; but none would assist me to bring away any part of the skeleton. I might have brought away a small portion of it myself, but indifference caused me to give up my intention.

Desirous of gaining our ship, notwithstanding it was blowing very fresh, and the surf was high, we got the canoe afloat, and got aboard ; but found great difficulty in keeping it free from water. The appearance of the weather, together with the dashing of the spray, caused us to think she was ill calculated to cross the sound : however, we set off, keeping close in shore off Jekyl, till we came to the entrance of the sound, and within sight of the Neptune, when, in as deliberate a manner as sailors commonly argue a topic, we held a consultation, whether it would be most advisable to cross over to the ship, blowing as it was ; or to disembark, and remain on the island, till the weather should clear up, or prove more favourable. Sailor-like, all scorned to be thought timid ; so it was agreed that we should venture. We had not paddled more than two or three furlongs, before we fell into the tide's way, where our situation was critical, and, to those who could not swim, alarming ; as we every moment expected being swamped. As I was the lightest of the crew, it was decided that I should paddle the canoe ; the others sitting, or lying down, at the bottom. Mine was a laborious, but eligible post,

compared with some of theirs, who got properly drenched, as she shipt much water, which, for want of something more suitable for the purpose, they were obliged to throw out with their hats, as some of us had done before out of the lighter. Had it been ebb instead of flood-tide, we should have paid dearly for our temerity, as there would have been great danger, in either returning to Jekyl, making St. Simon's, or proceeding to the ship. As it was flood-tide, we drifted up the sound, and after much toil, and many difficulties, landed near Major Tomkins', situated nearly at the head of the sound. Again we hauled the canoe up, and left her: when, walking on the beach, we were agreeably surprised to meet Mr. Club, to whom we related our adventure. He was not far from his own house, which he invited us to enter; expressed regret that we had not been more successful in getting clams, and astonishment at the discovery of a whale's skeleton in a wood; and refreshed us with warm rum and water, sweetened with molasses. After being well entertained, we repaired to the water side, hailed our vessel, and soon saw the boat putting off to fetch us on board, where we were welcomed by our messmates, &c.

In some of my wanderings ashore, I was much astonished to find several families, who had been driven from the main, destitute of all the comforts of their former situations, happy to escape with their

lives, and a blanket or two. Some few had rescued an iron pot to cook in, whilst others had only the clothes they wore; reduced from opulence to poverty, wanting even the necessaries of life; roaming about in the woods, with no other shelter than what the trees afforded; and doomed to behold their children seated on the ground, round a log fire, parching Indian corn to satisfy the demands of empty stomachs. This, with a few red peas, which they also parched in the hot ashes, appeared to be their principal if not only sustenance.

There was not a sufficiency of provisions on the island, to support such an influx of strangers, many of whom had their negroes with them, whose altered visages bespoke their approach to an early grave. They were in the most abject state of existence, literally pining to death for want of corn. Their masters were little better off; and, not having any money, or other valuables, to purchase food for themselves and miserable families, felt all the anguish of anticipated evils, joined to those accumulated ills, to which they had now been some time exposed. I pitied their sufferings, but could not relieve their distress; nor would they attempt it themselves, though they had the means of doing it by fishing; the sound abounding with skate, drumfish, and oysters; particularly skate. Their refusal is to be ascribed to the prejudice entertained against this fish by the people in these parts; because they are

subject to periodical evacuations, according to their opinion. But, such is the habitual indolence in which the great body of these settlers live, that although their families were suffering the greatest privations, I never saw a solitary instance of any of them exerting himself to better his condition by fishing, except our pilot, named Fulford, who stood less in need of such assistance than most of them : but Fulford was an industrious man, setting an example worthy of imitation.

He had a boat, of a tolerable size, which he moored near our ship in the sound, which was literally covered with skate. I observed his method of taking them, which he effected, by striking them with a harpoon, screwed into a shaft, about five feet long : standing in his boat, he singled out the fish he intended to strike, some being too large to get into the boat without assistance. After striking and safely landing a fish, he thrust the barb of the harpoon through it ; when, unscrewing it from the shaft, he easily drew it away, thereby saving much time and trouble, as it otherwise must have been cut out. As soon as he had loaded his boat, he would come on board our vessel, to have a little chat : amongst other questions, I asked him how he disposed of such quantities of skate, seeing that the people would not eat it ? To which he replied, his pigs had more sense, and more industry too, than most of the settlers ; for they would eat skate, and, if allowed, would provide

not only for themselves, but offspring also. A severe, but merited sarcasm.

Amongst others who had found their way to St. Simon's, was Mr. Manson, from Darien; he and Mr. M'Cleod having dissolved partnership, or some other change having taken place, which I did not ascertain. Mr. Manson had brought all his moveable property to this Island, and opened a general store, as at Darien. His store was close to a demolished mud fort, called King George's fort, that once commanded the creek, or river. Our vessel soon removed from her first station, proceeded up the sound, entered Cathead Creek, and moored head and stern, near to Mr. Manson's store, the river not being wide enough to swing. Captains Dale and Coates made some arrangements with that gentleman, who, together with his family, and a Mr. Gascoign and family, who was also a storekeeper, were the only inhabitants of this place, though, from the quantity of bricks scattered in all directions to a considerable distance, there had doubtless been a number of good houses there; probably before the demolition of the mud fortification. Here our small cargo of West India produce was landed; part of which consisted of white biscuits and geneva, taken in at St. Eustatius, an island belonging to the Dutch. The biscuits were in barrels of a flimsy make, which, on being removed into the boat, for the better conveyance to Mr. Manson's, allowed many small pieces to fall through their sides,

into the bottom of the boat ; and were the occasion of a most unexpected interview between me and a long lost acquaintance.

Being sent one evening with some barrels of these white biscuits, and a few cases of geneva, to Mr. Manson's, after taking the last barrel and case out of the boat, leaving the small pieces scattered in the bottom, we remained at his house a considerable time, entering into familiar conversation with a female domestic, an Indian, whom I remembered having had some chat with at Darien. Our pleasure seemed mutual in recognizing each other, beguiling time, which now clothed the face of nature in dusky grey. But, as "the best friends must part," we left her, and returned to the ship's boat, in which we found a black man, who had on a great coat, and an uncommonly large hat ; he was picking up the fragments of white biscuits, that had fallen out of the ill-made barrels. "Holloa !" said I to the man with the broad-brim'd hat on, "what are you about there?" He spoke not, but immediately got out of the boat, with the broken bread in his hand : going nearer to him, he lifted up the flap of his enormously large hat, as if to get a better view of some of us ; when, looking at me steadfastly a short time, he pulled off his hat, placed it on the beach, put the bits of biscuits that he had picked up into it ; looked on me again with marked earnestness, and seemed as if desirous of saying something.

After a short pause, clasping my right hand between both his, still staring at me, he exclaimed "Berri! Berri!" (meaning Billy! Billy!) For some time I stared at the man who addressed me, but could not identify him; it was dusk, and a beard disfigured his face: mine seemed well known to him. The poor fellow was so overjoyed, that he uttered nothing intelligible, except Berri! Berri! and that was only rendered so, by the recollection that Quashee used to call me by that name. "Is this Quashee?" said I, doubtingly. "Me be Quashee, an you be Berri!" said he, rapidly, still pressing my hand fervently. "If you are Quashee," said I — "Yes, Massa," returned he, interrupting me; "me be Quashee; me jump into de water, an swim away! Mr. Simson, de big rogue! tarve poor Berri! Quashee an Berri look for de persimins." Notwithstanding the grotesque appearance of the poor black, I was convinced it was Quashee, and shook his hand most cordially. Desirous of knowing something of his fate, subsequently to receiving a severe blow from my hand, when at the negroes' camp, I threw out a hint to that effect, when he told me that after making his escape from the tree, to which he was tied by the wrist, he remained three days in a swamp; whence he was driven by hunger: but that not knowing how to do better, he gave himself up to his masters, by whom he was transported to another, whom he mentioned in as high terms of praise as an

unlettered negro could be expected to do, gratitude filling his heart as he spoke of him.

It was now time for us to go to the ship, which prevented further conversation; we shook hands, expressed a hope to meet again soon, bade each other farewell, and parted: nor did I ever see him more, though I often wished for an opportunity, as doubtless he would also. Strange are the vicissitudes of life! Sooner could I have believed myself capable of calculating the exact time of a solar or lunar eclipse, than that I should meet with Quashee on the Island of St. Simon, picking up broken bits of biscuit in our ship's boat, at the time when I was dependant on him and Cato for a little salted mackerel and Indian corn.

The ship being clear, and the voyage finished, we were now to receive our wages, some at the rate of six, others nine dollars per month; notwithstanding which, previously to being called separately into the cabin to receive them, there was much speculation amongst us, as to the sum each would be paid, not what was his due. This arose from a conviction, that Captain Dale was a man who would take advantage where he could, and, in the present instance, he could take what advantage he would; nor was he shy in his takings. Disappointment appeared in each face, as our crew returned individually from the cabin; nor did I expect the impress of satisfaction being stamped on mine, aware that I should not be over-

paid. My turn at length came, to go below ; I had been between nine and ten months in the employ, and might therefore reasonably expect fifty dollars, according to agreement, exclusive of the little I had received: instead of which, fourteen dollars were all that I could get; without a promise of any more—not one-third of my due. In vain were arguments, in vain remonstrances; and I was obliged to yield to fraud, as the rest of my messmates had done; though not without wishing Captain Dale at the de'il, and the Neptune laid up, for want of hands, till one plank started from another. Every man before the mast was dissatisfied, and Henry Hodges, the mate, declared that, sooner than remain in a leaky vessel, on short and bad allowance, without spirits, and with a captain who would wrong his men of their wages, he and others would risk falling in with the Indians, by going over land to Savannah. All determined to leave the ship to the care of Captains Dale and Coates, and Capt. Dale's poultice-making black servant.

Mr. Hodges was deputed to state our intention to Capt. Coates, who, on hearing it, flew into a terrible passion: the mate advocated our cause, like an upright man, changing our captain's vociferations into entreaties, all of which were ineffectual; for we went ashore, with an intention to remain there, till opportunity served to go either to Charleston or Savannah. We now formed ourselves into parties;

the gimlet-making Dutchman was my comrade ; Anthony, the Dane, and an American constituted another party ; and Mr. Hodges, with three or four others, formed a third. These we expected would leave the island, and, at all hazards, travel over land, as hinted by the mate. Self and Co. went to Gascoign's store, where we purchased each a hat, a handkerchief, and a knife, also some rum, sugar, and segars. As each article was extravagantly dear, we were confined in our purchases ; nevertheless, we obtained leave to deposit our trunks, &c. there ; till such time as we could meet with a comfortable place to lodge them in.

After leaving the store, at the distance of about a mile from the mud fort, inland, we came up to a person, who was standing at the door of a pleasantly situated house, nearly surrounded with trees, of variegated foliage, in which were blended every gradation of tint, from the palest green to the deepest orange, all harmonizing together, and forming one picturesque whole. The person at the door spoke in a friendly manner to us, politely inviting us in : having the rum and sugar with us, purchased at Gascoign's, we requested a little water, obtained it, and made some good stiff grog ; which we pushed about cheerfully, till we drained the last drop of our little stock out of the bottles : and, as there were no puncheons to start the bungs out of, " de rums would not coom" to my conjuring messmate. As the grog circulated,

we represented our case to the person who invited us in, desiring to be informed, if he knew where we could be accommodated with lodgings, till such time as we could leave the island. He assured us, every place was occupied, but that we should be welcome to stay there all night, though he could not furnish us with a bed. To me that was of little moment, as, with the exception of the time I was in the hospital at Grenada, I had not enjoyed the luxury of a bed for nearly two years.

As soon as we had finished the grog, a good-looking young woman came to us, and invited us to have something to eat. Unwilling to throw the kindness in her face, when appetite, sharpened by the liquor, said, accept it, we partook of some boiled pork and pompions, with vinegar and molasses ; which is the usual way of eating pork in this part of the world. We learned that our host's name was Basket ; that he was a married man, carrying on the trade of a blacksmith, in which he was assisted by a young man, then from home. Our early supper over, Mrs. Basket entered the room, bringing with her a bottle of rum, which was also made into grog ; she remained with us the whole of the evening, the time passing away very pleasantly. The grog unmoored our tongues, affording the Dutchman a fine opportunity of showing his knowledge of every thing. He and Mr. Basket had their conversation, while Mrs. Basket detailed to me the wretched state into

which people living on the main, or who had lived there, were plunged by the fatal Indian war, which, she said, they had great reasons to deplore, as much as most people ; for that, before it broke out, she and her assistants manufactured cotton shirts, trowsers, &c. for the use of the Indians, supplying the different stores at which they used to trade. Obliging in the extreme, she fetched some of the shirts for my inspection ; some were white, some striped ; others checkered, blue and white : all appeared well made, very long, and graced out with ruffles both at the breast and wrists.

Every now and then, I listened to the conversation of Basket and Johnny, who complimented each other on the extent of their abilities, suggesting the best and easiest plan of imitating Spanish dollars. Basket unhesitatingly told John, that he had made many, which he paid away to the Spaniards themselves from St. Augustine ; he knew, he said, they were not well executed, but the Spaniards from that place could scarcely tell silver from pewter. I did not seem to pay any attention to their discourse, till our host produced some samples : they were very defective, the impressions imperfect, arising from bad casting. I had hitherto remained silent on the subject, but now ventured to make some remarks, which tickled the fancy of Mr. Basket, at the same time convincing him that I knew something of engraving, casting, &c. His whole attention was now removed

from John to me ; he seemed to store up every thing that I said in his mind ; frequently asking me to repeat my remarks, in order to understand them properly. As night was far advanced, Mr. and Mrs. Basket retired to bed, leaving their guests to form theirs on some chairs, in the room, before a good log-fire : where, half groggy, we laid ourselves down, and enjoyed as sound a sleep, as if reposing on the softest bed. So true is it, that habit triumphs over difficulties, and custom reconciles the mind to the extremes of hardship.

More anxious to renew the conversation than to disturb our slumbers, Mr. Basket, with the earliest light of day, entered the room, and wished us good morning. We arose, washed ourselves, and after conversing together unreservedly on the subject of our evening's discourse, accompanied him, at his request, to his workshop. His anvil and the faces of his hammers wore a little rust, convincing me that he had not much business in the smith's line, therefore more time to devote to the coining of Spanish dollars ; on which subject, the more we talked the better pleased he appeared. Fearing he might form a wrong opinion of me, I told him candidly that I knew the subject of our discourse better in theory than from practice ; that the information I possessed was more in consequence of living with my father, who was a general engraver and a good mathematician, than from being able to execute any thing

myself. He, however, ascribing my confession of inability to diffidence, was very urgent for me to remain with him. As my companion's knowledge of the arts was something like his legerdemain, very superficial, and as he could not brook a rival, even in striking a dolphin, no wonder at his viewing me in that light, when he found Mr. Basket so solicitous to retain me in his service. His remarks were insignificant, consequently unattended to: convinced of which, he left me for the day, during which time a Scotchman, named Hall, who kept a store on the Island, called at Mr. Basket's; he had, at the request of Capt. Coates, been in search of us, to endeavour to persuade us to return to the ship, assuring me that I should not only have every attention paid to me, but also an advance of wages. I told him I thought myself much injured, not only as to wages, but in the disappointment I had experienced, and was then experiencing, in being in Georgia, instead of England, all occasioned by duplicity, which might continue, if I returned to and remained with the ship: that as I meant to renounce a seafaring life, and had found an asylum in the house where I then had the happiness to be, I purposed remaining with Mr. Basket, till I could get a passage to Charleston. Finding me callous to every argument he could adduce, Mr. Hall left us to enjoy ourselves in conversation, so congenial to the wishes of our friendly host.

On the following day my messmate returned,

bringing with him intelligence that Mr. Hodges and his party had succeeded in getting off on board a schooner, bound for Charleston, from St. Mary's. The news affected me very much, feeling all the poignancy of disappointment. I regretted losing such an opportunity, and sighed to be at home; having experienced little more than unpleasantness of one kind or other since I forsook it. On the third or fourth day from meeting with the hospitable smith, at whose house I still remained, Capt. Coates, directed by Mr. Hall, waited on me, for the purpose of trying to persuade me to return with him to the ship. He proposed a walk; on which, reading in the face of Mr. Basket disapproval of the proposition, I declined the honour he intended me. Chagrin was visible in his altered countenance, as he turned from me to pursue his way to the store of Mr. Manson, whom he engaged to wait on me, for the same purpose, and who met with no better success. Endeavours were used to induce Anthony, the Dane, the Dutchman, and the American also, to return, knowing the difficulty there would be in obtaining hands, as none could be procured at St. Simon's, and much time would be lost in waiting for men from Charleston or Savannah.

Again Coates visited me, pointed out his unpleasant situation, having a ship without hands; was sorry for the disappointment I had met with, in not being able to return to England; said his disap-

pointment was equally great ; declared his intention of still befriending me, as we were countrymen ; lamented the exorbitant charge of black Jack, which had reduced my wages so much ; and promised me nine dollars per month, if I would ship with him for the West Indies, with the privilege of leaving the ship at any period after arriving there. Though I placed little confidence in fair promises, yet, on reflecting on his kind treatment, and having very little money, after settling Captain Jack's account in the cabin of the Neptune, I told him I would see him the next day ; on which he relied, bade me good bye, and went away satisfied.

Mr. Basket, apprehensive of the result of Captain Coates's second visit, was very urgent to engage me to remain with him, saying that, if he could not do without another person in my place, he would willingly exchange his assistant for me ; provided our captain would agree to such an arrangement : for which purpose he went on board our ship, made his proposal, and received the answer I calculated on—a refusal. From the disappointed smith, I went to Gascoign's store, to get my trunk removed to the vessel ; where I learned that three of our people had been there a few hours before. I acquainted him with my intention, requesting him to communicate the same to any of our late crew, the first time they should call. After receiving an assurance of attention to my request, I hastened on board, and

received from Capt. Coates a hearty welcome. He was in a similar situation to that in which I found him at Charleston, when he behaved so well to me, entirely destitute of hands, and alone, Captain Dale and his servant being ashore.

In the course of the following day, the Dutchman, the Dane, and the American sailor returned on board ; on seeing whom, our captain's countenance bespoke the feelings of his mind, brightening into a smile of satisfaction. The next day, a person who was heartily tired of St. Simon's, a joiner by trade, and rather distressed, was engaged ; as well as Tom Grace, the black cook.

We had now a sufficiency of hands to remove the ship, which we effected by working up the river Alatomaha. We moored her in a creek, leading to the house of a Mr. Porter, on the main, where he had also a barn, raff yard, &c. and who could of himself freight us with planks, ranging timber, scantlings, &c. Notwithstanding the Indians had caused such consternation, by the depredations they had committed ; Mr. Porter thought himself secure from their visits, being on a neck of land, protected by a block house and fort, called by the people William's fort. Both places were garrisoned, or manned, by people from St. Simon's, and other places ; each person serving fourteen days in his turn, with a view of protecting the neck of land from the dreaded encroachments of the Indians.

The neck of land was productive of a little corn, rice, melons, &c. cultivated for the use of their families at St. Simon's, &c.

No time was lost, immediately beginning to get in some timber, rafted by the negroes of Mr. Porter, and floated down the creek to the Neptune, past which a boat frequently went, containing men who had served their fourteen days, or such as were going to do duty at the fort or block-house; many of whom took with them fire-arms, implements of husbandry, &c. These people either laboured in the fields, or cut down and squared timber.

After passing and repassing several times, the boat made up to us, bringing two more hands for us, who were well received by all on board, nearly completing the number required to man the vessel. They were forwarded by Capt. Dale, from Manson's, and proved to be Captain Hebden, brother-in-law to Capt. Dale (who had the misfortune to lose his brig at Du Quesne bay, Grenada), and an apprentice, named Charles M'Carty: this was an interesting youth, a native of Cork, where he represented his father as practising the law. The brig, of which Mr. Hebden was captain, previous to being wrecked, was principally employed between Cork and Grenada. He proved a pleasant, social man, worthy a better fate; except, as a French author writes, all things happen for the best. He, together with M'Carty, got a passage from one of the West India

Islands to Charleston, where, meeting with the worthy Henry Hodges, he learned the particulars of the Neptune and his brother-in-law being at St. Simon's; which induced them to repair to that Island, where they arrived, after encountering many difficulties :—such as are little calculated on by the querulous politician, who, over his glass and pipe, asserts pretty confidently that, were he the state pilot, he would steer the nation into the haven of prosperity, in despite of calms, storms, and unseen rocks.

Where our ship lay, the water was salt,—an inconvenience which we obviated by collecting fresh out of numerous sawpits, found in a pine-barren; the road to which lay through a thicket of live oak, behind Mr. Porter's house, at the distance of half a mile from the creek. Three of our people were employed at one time to get the water; two in conveying the empty casks to the sawpits, and a third in filling them: the latter task devolved on young M'Carty. This took up a considerable time, as the casks had to be removed from pit to pit; one seldom affording half sufficient to fill a cask, which, when filled, had to be fetched away, and were sometimes rolled down to the waterside by the negroes, who had been working in the pine-barren. To Englishmen who have never been from home, and who are so highly favoured with springs of refreshing water in every city, town, and hamlet, it may appear strange to collect water out of sawpits, to be made use of for

culinary and other domestic purposes: but such is the case in less favoured countries, and it is a fortunate circumstance, in some places, that they have such reservoirs.

The pine-barren just spoken of extended some miles, and abounded in these pits, some more, some less filled up; the more open were those, out of which the water was obtained. Numerous as the pits have been for a number of years, they continue to increase; for, wherever there are a few trees standing together, that are deemed worth felling and sawing into planks, there a pit is immediately dug, and the trees, mostly of an immense size, cut up, rendering them easy to remove. Thus a saving is made in the expense of horses; for one horse, when the timber is sawn into planks, will carry off with ease what ten would find a difficulty in removing in the gross.

In taking in the ranging timber, through the raff-port, in the stern, it was necessary for a person to be stationed on the quarter-deck, for the purpose of checking, or easing off the tackle, when the end of the timber was once in the port, and ready for running; he receiving instructions from those employed below. Placed in this station, attending to the tackle, the noise of distant firing struck on my ear, which I announced to those below, observing, in a joking way, that the Indians were attacking William's fort. "Many a true word is

spoke in jest," answered one of the sailors, whom I could only hear indistinctly, his voice being nearly overpowered by the nasal twang of the American, who sang out yo ! ye ho ! yaw ! as musically as a razor-grinder's wheel ; which was the signal for all to pull together, as the timber was getting into the raff-port. Again I heard the firing, louder, as if produced by cannon, or swivels : others heard the second report, which drew the attention of Captain Coates. Another discharge was heard, and all on board concluded that something unusual was going on ; for a short time, labour stood still, all being alike desirous to ascertain, if possible, whence the sound proceeded. Suspense succeeded surprise ; and surprise suspense, as a person was seen galloping, on the road from the fort towards young M'Carty, who was filling casks with water out of the sawpits ; from the speed with which he rode, and his strange appearance, as he drew nearer, being on the bare back of a horse, without a bridle to steer with, we were assured that he was the harbinger of ill news. In this opinion we were confirmed, when we saw blacks and whites, all leaving their work, and many of them their saws, axes, and other implements, hurrying down to the beach. In the foremost rank was the young Irishman ; he, after learning from the man on horse-back that the Indians had taken the fort, determined to make the best use he could of his feet, left his shoes and hat

behind, though he did not forget to arm himself with a shilelah.

Great was our astonishment, when we found the person who had mounted the first horse he could get, without having time to get it saddled and bridled, was Mr. Porter, who, having been out a shooting, had heard the attack made on the fort, accompanied by the shouts and yells of the Indians. He, though panic struck, was desirous to save the lives of as many as he could, which was the cause of his riding up to M'Carty and others, and informing them of their danger. Such was his fear, that his house was deserted and left to its fate: he, as well as all his negroes, with the exception of two, came on board immediately; the two negroes who could not gain the Neptune at the same time as the others, together with two white people, secreted themselves during the night, and so escaped the vengeance of the Indians, who were now determined to extirpate all whom they considered their enemies.

Mr. Porter's fears appeared contagious, alarming Captain Coates so much that, though he considered the ship in danger, yet he, Mr. Hebden, and the alarmist, in the evening, determined to go to St. Simon's, considering it a much safer place, and concluding, with Shakspeare's cowardly Knight,

“ He who fights, and runs away,

“ May live to fight another day.”

Reprehensible as such conduct must appear in the judgment of the impartial and disinterested, it was adopted by our captain and the other two gentlemen ; one of whom was setting the worst of examples to numerous dependants, in the hour of danger ; the other acting unworthy the character of a confidential servant, and British seaman. The ship's boat received the heroic three, amidst stifled murmurs, and faces marked with discontent: four men rowed them to St. Simon's: the remainder of us were left on board, to defend ourselves and the ship, against the attacks of the enraged Indians, who, by crossing a marsh of tall reeds, could get very near to us ; the other side was a salt marsh. The creek being narrow, our vessel was moored in the same manner as when off the old fort at St. Simon's.

Without a captain, without a mate, all could advise, but none command ; we consulted how to arrange matters for the night, each moment expecting a visit that might cost us our lives ; and as they were of no less value to us than those of the absentees were to them, we argued as if we had a right to preserve them, though not permitted to do it in so genteel a way as those, whose presence should have inspired us with courage. Our deliberations were, whether we should remain all night in the most profound silence, thereby escaping the observation of the Indians ; or, by the whole party shouting and making the greatest noise we could, induce

a belief in them, should they be reconnoitering any where near, that we were a scouting party from St. Simon's; of whom being afraid, they probably would decamp without offering us any molestation. As it commonly happens in popular meetings, convened for discussion, the majority was in favour of clamour; accordingly, the advocates for silence were silenced in debate, and Babel's jargon resounded through the air! Perhaps it produced the desired effect; as we neither saw nor heard any thing of our much dreaded enemies. Many of the negroes, during the night, complained of excessive coldness; to remedy which, as much as possible, we kindled two fires as soon as day dawned; making them upon some stone flags, to prevent accidents: the poor fellows were grateful for the accommodation, and received much comfort from it.

With the first rays of returning day, the forebodings of fear vanished from each breast, not instantaneously, but gradually; preparing the mind to entertain a nobler guest, reflection! that neglected blessing of heaven to man! that distinguishing characteristic of his superiority over other animals! In the course of the day, Captains Dale and Coates, with Mr. Hebden, who was acting as our mate, came on board; the tide serving, we got up our anchors, and dropt down the creek to a part that was more open, where we brought up and re-moored. The affrighted Mr. Porter visited us, bringing with him boats and

a lighter, in order to transport his negroes from the Neptune to St. Simon's. The four people who had concealed themselves during the night also went with them.

Previously to leaving the vessel, these four related to us that a party of Indians, after showing themselves near the fort, immediately fired, and retreated into the wood; that another party, observing two people from the fort, squaring a log of cedar at a distance, and out of the range of shot from the fort, fired at, and killed them; whom they not only scalped, but stuck different kinds of feathers into their breasts, writing thereon with red paint the emphatic words, "blood for blood." During the performance of this tragic scene, the other party frequently fired in the direction of the fort. As soon as they had scalped, and otherwise disfigured the unfortunate victims of revenge, they left the place, taking away with them some negroes, and two white females; one an elderly woman, the other a young one, who had just gone out in search of a cade fawn, that had rambled into the wood, but which she would have soon found, it having a small bell hung from its neck. These accounts were never contradicted, but frequently corroborated by the statements of other people.

Weak and ineffectual would be the attempt to pourtray the fear evinced by Mr. Porter, from the moment when he was first seen galloping on the

bare back of a horse, up to the time when he was with the greatest difficulty prevailed on to fetch his valuables away from his house ; once the seat of placid contentment ; now, for aught he knew, reduced to a heap of ruins. At length he ventured ; a lighter was sent up the creek, he following in a boat ; by means of which, many valuable articles were brought away to our ship. When he left again, he took with him many of his negroes, leaving some to assist in forming raffles and getting timber on board. Our captains, Mr. Porter, and Mr. Hebden, continued to leave the ship at night-fall ; going to St. Simon's. Had not Captain Dale, the owner of the Neptune, been there, our captain and mate would have been culpable in the extreme. Never did fear reign more triumphant, or more despotic over the mind, than that exhibited by the settlers at St. Simon's, who durst as soon have ventured out to sea in a storm, in leaky canoes, as go to that part of the main where the Indians were committing such ravages ; for amongst other reports that prevailed, was one, that the Indians purposed collecting their whole force, which was very formidable, and therewith making a desperate attack on Fort William ; the report was firmly believed, and overawed all who gave credit to it.

For my own part, I considered it little better than having sentence of death passed on me, when ordered by Captain Dale to accompany one of Mr.

Porter's negroes to the pine-barren, to fill a cask with fresh water, being nearly without that useful article. I thought it hard to be pitched upon to be set in the front of danger, instead of being recompensed for the disappointment I had suffered; and knew not how to account for it, unless it was to punish me for presuming to charge him, as well as the officers of our ship, with degrading cowardice, in abandoning her in the hour of danger. It was enough to know that I was ordered to go. Remonstrance would have proved as ineffectual as striving to calm my fears—go I must, though I confess I did it with as much reluctance as I inflicted punishment on Quashee, at the Negroes' camp. Into the boat we got, taking with us, besides the cask for water, a quantity of Indian corn in a bag, which the negro intended grinding in a hand-mill, near to Mr. Porter's house. When we arrived there, all was quiet, except my fears. The black very generously gave me the choice of going to the saw-pits to fill the cask, or remaining where I was to grind the corn. My decision was instantly made; and I felt thankful in having it in my power to retreat to the boat, in case of a visit from the Indians. The words were scarcely out of my mouth, declaring my choice, before Mungo, taking the cask, was out of sight amongst the live oaks, in the thicket leading to the pine-barren.

I of course commenced grinding the corn, wishing

the honour thereof conferred on the carpenter of the Hudibras, who performed the part of the miller so well, when, on our passage to Africa, we were first becalmed. The noise of the mill operated so strongly on my mind, that I was terrified lest it should reach the ears of the savages; whom, imagination depicted, advancing with hurried steps towards the spot whence the sound proceeded. Every moment I expected a shot: round went the mill, with redoubled exertions: the sweat stood in big drops on my face, and my shirt was completely saturated. Fatigued and alarmed, I became faint, and ready to drop; however, I continued my labour till all was ground, when I tied it up in the bag; and, desirous to escape observation, crept behind an old door that was placed against a barn, thankful for such a shelter, and reflecting on the villany that was the cause of all our dreaded ills.

I was suddenly roused from reflection by a noise, as if produced from the mouth of some animated being, which I construed into a device of some subtle Indian; as it was confidently asserted, and currently believed, that some of them would imitate the voices of different animals and birds, in order to creep unsuspected near to any one whom they wish to shoot. 'Twas enough to a fear-fraught imagination;—I durst not peep out: the sound was repeated,—I perspired more than I did with grinding of corn—the voice was louder and nearer. My

knees smote together fearfully.—Again, and again, I heard the noise quite close to the door.—“ Lord, have mercy on me,” whispered I, as the door stirred—down fell the old door, and down dropt I on my knees, expecting to be shot by an Indian; when, to my great surprise, and no less satisfaction, the long snout of an uncommonly large pig tossed back the door against my breast, and grunted out an explanation of the cause of my present alarm, as I recognized in its discordant snort the heart-appalling sound of the fancied Indian’s decoy note. Chagrined at my own timidity, I arose from my knees, turned my back on the door and the pig, and advanced a little on the road very cautiously, hoping to meet the negro with the cask of water. But the interwoven branches and moss-covered leaves of the live oak, nearly shut out the light of day from the thicket; so that I could only see a very short distance on the track in the thicket, nor could I hear any one among the bushes, from which to conclude he was returning. I began to be apprehensive that some misfortune had befallen him; particularly dreading the Indians, I fancied that some of them, springing upon him from an ambush, had seized poor Mungo, scalped him, and perforating his black breast, decorated it with feathers of richest colours, shining in the blaze of day. But in this conjecture I was happily mistaken, for, after gazing on the sombre thicket till suspense begat weariness, without

being able to descry him, he announced his safety, by calling out, in a tone approaching to harshness, "What mattré, Backara no come, an help negra?" Which I was happy to do; and cheerfully lent him assistance. A few minutes before he accosted me, I was suddenly surprised by a crackling sound in the thicket, though in a direction quite off the road; from the consideration of which my mind was diverted by Mungo's salutation. His delay was occasioned by a scarcity of water near the road, requiring him to go farther up the pine-barren; he had, however, by making a track through the live oak thicket, rather than return to the common road, saved some time.

We soon got the cask of water, and the bag of ground Indian corn into the boat; and, to my inexpressible joy, left the long-snouted pig and the place too, in order to proceed to the Neptune. On our way thither I asked Mr. Porter's negro, who was quite cheerful, if he was not afraid of the Indians? "No, Massa," replied he, "negar no afraid of Indians; Indians no trike negar: Indians get negar new massa!" Such was the confidence with which he spoke of the friendly intentions of the Indians, and such the gaiety of the whole sable tribe, compared with the whites, who were driven to despondency, that I almost wished myself a black, that I might escape the petrifying effects of fear, which appeared not only amongst the settlers, who were liable to the most unwelcome visits, but also in the

minds of our whole crew, inducing our brave officers to desert us in the time of danger, as before, continuing to leave the ship each evening.

As soon as we gained the deck of the Neptune, we were questioned respecting the Indians, particularly if we had seen any? Or, if not, if we had seen a living being who could give us any information? I narrated to them the quandary I was in behind the door, how I heard something creeping nearer and nearer to me, breathing strong, and articulating several times, though in an unknown tongue, ———. Tom Grace, the cook, shewed his red tongue, as he and the Dutchman stood open-mouthed, listening to the story; which I made as much of as I possibly could; declaring, I expected each moment to breathe my last. Most of my white auditors stood like children gazing on a companion, when relating the heart-appalling tale of apparitions. When I got to the moving of the door, young M'Carty moved his right hand up to his left breast, and made a cross thereon with his forefinger. Sailors, though courageous, are often superstitious, and most of my messmates looked as if they expected some supernatural agency being at the bottom of the story. But, when it ended in the manner I have already related, M'Carty swore it was as bad as a "a tale of a tub;" and the American sailor protested, point blank, that wasting time in listening to such a tale, was "buying a whistle too dear."

At this time, two small rafts of scantlings remained to be fetched to the ship, our cargo being then completed; one was immediately fetched by some of Mr. Porter's negroes, and properly stowed, after being got on board. Saturday evening now arrived, and the ship was left to the care of Messrs. Dutch John, Tom Grace, young M'Carty, and self, official men had something else to care for; and the blacks were allowed to go to St. Simon's, to see their wives and families, for whose accommodation a lighter was brought from the Island by their companions.

Thus left, we mustered our means of defence, and found ourselves possessed of three muskets, all loaded, but without a grain of powder to reload. We generally watched two in a watch, but, on this night, we agreed to watch all four together; for reports were brought us each morning from St. Simon's, that the Indians were in great force on the neck of land noticed before, and that as no account had been received from either the block-house or William's fort, for several days, the prevailing opinion was, that both places had fallen into the hands of the savages. M'Carty had often waked with the dead, in his own country, but never felt so much alarmed as in waking with the living, near to Mr. Porter's. In the silent hour of night, we perceived a light, supposed by us to be at or near to the residence of Mr. Porter; but as the night was very dark, and after some little time the light seemed to move, we

could not, in the first instance, ascertain its direction. The first paroxysm of fear over, we were persuaded that the luminous body was floating down the river: sometimes we could see it very distinctly; then, as if from the curvatures and windings of the river, it became lost to our view; but the next moment became visible again, and evidently much nearer to us. Personal safety was the first thought of all, but how to effect that, was more than any of the four could suggest. The light gained on us. I proposed that we should imitate our betters, and take care of ourselves at all events: my plan was to get into the boat, cast her off, and lie down at the bottom, assured that we should drift down by the ebb-tide: but in this, as in most other things, I was over-ruled by the Dutchman, notwithstanding we could distinctly see people between the light and us. John, as usual, was very cunning, and very talkative; so the future arrangement was left to him. The first thing John ordered us to do, as soon as the light came in view, was to shout and make as loud a noise as we could, clapping our hands at the same time. This idea was improved on by the young Irishman, who advised us to imitate the unmeaning yells of his own countrymen, at a village funeral, giving us a specimen, at once discordant, ludicrous, and terrific. The black cook recommended, that we should clap our hands to our mouths every time we shouted; which, he said, would make the Injans believe there

were more of us than there really were. John next ordered one of the muskets to be fired at the light, reserving the other two till we got into the boat, if it was found necessary.

Apprehensive that some Indians might be lying in ambush amongst the long reeds, with an intention to shoot us, we avoided exposing ourselves, as we knew the will was there, and nothing but the power was wanting: to guard against which, as much as possible, we took our births alongside the masts, windlass-bits, or wherever we could find shelter upon deck, keeping our eyes steadfastly fixed on the light, when in view; and in the direction of it, when out of sight. At length, it became stationary above the banks of the river, illuminating the atmosphere like the light of a furnace, in the night, at which time we could not see the fire. It was the general opinion, that they were preparing for a grand attack; to avoid the consequence of which, we prepared to leave the ship, in the boat, now in readiness, on the larboard side of the Neptune, the starboard side being next the long reeds. Whether the boat, or the raff, on which was the fire, grounded, when the light became stationary, or whether it could not proceed by reason of the flood-tide setting in, we could not ascertain; but supposed that the latter circumstance produced the effect. The light gradually died away; not so our fears: for, now we were at a loss to know where our supposed enemies were,

and what doing. However, as Aurora peeped forth in the east, we took courage, though still directing our attention up the river. Just as the sun's disk appeared above the horizon, we perceived something rolling along the side of the river; we soon got into our boat, arrested its progress, and found it to be a raff, which we secured: on inspection, we found a quantity of ashes in a hole burnt upon it, also some light-wood, split into small pieces. It is called light-wood by the settlers, because used instead of candles: it is generally found in pine-barrens, and is got from such pines as have fallen, where, the woody substance decaying, leaves the turpentine much concentrated.

Morning restored to us our two captains, our mate, and the four sailors, who were employed in conveying them to and from St. Simon's. The first inquiry of these brave officers was daily the same; "Have you had a visit from the infernals?" We related what we had seen, what suspected, and what done; shewing them the raff that we had secured. They very coolly observed, "there was not the least danger or ground for alarm;" concluding that the people whom we saw, and who had been in possession of the raff, were very probably some negroes, who had taken our shouting, particularly the Irish pilliloo of young M'Carty, for the equally unmeaning tones of the Indians. "Unmaning, is it, that he manes?" grumbled Charles M'Carty, turning to me,

and colouring as he spoke. "Unmaning! By my sowl, but I wish some of the boys that waked with Judy M'Grath, at Glanmire, where I first saw Biddy Mulligan, heard his honour spake against the native tongue of old Erin!" He would have said more, but Captain Dale coming up at the instant prevented him.

In the course of the day, the dark green foliage of the pines, beyond the live oak thicket, wore a more sombre appearance, as a thin white smoke was seen rising in the pine-barren, in several different parts at the same time. Conjecture remained not long idle; for the long reeds were soon seen blazing, which young M'Carty, with more gravity than grace, swore, by the second person in the blessed Trinity, was a burning shame. When we first discovered them to be on fire, the flame travelled with wonderful rapidity, much like a train of gunpowder, disposed of, and set fire to by adventurous boys; but as many of the reeds were much taller or much drier than others, the ignition was partial and beautiful: for the heat from the first range of fire, dissipating the moisture of the more damp, prepared others for the same fate; a third conflagration succeeded the second, and so on, till they looked like bunches of black bristles in an old shoe-brush, being nearly level with the ground.

The smoke, which at first appeared like a thin semi-transparent vapour, almost imperceptibly float-

ing in a gradually ascending direction, now assumed a denser form, issuing from a thousand places, with accelerated motion; volume upon volume, as if driven from the mouth of a cannon. Night presented a terrific appearance, affording us an opportunity of witnessing the progress of the devouring elements; columns of which were seen towering above the loftiest pines, illuminating the atmosphere with a singularly awful light. Before the succeeding day dawned, the woods were on fire beyond the utmost limits of vision; irradiating the distant horizon with the glow of summer's sun at noon day.

The live oaks suffered with the pines, though not in the same degree; the long moss growing thereon, together with the small branches, were entirely consumed; and numbers of the finest oaks joining the pine-barren were nearly levelled with the ground, where they had been planted by nature, without the care or toil of man. In the morning, several negroes returned from St. Simon's, to assist in bringing the remaining raff from Mr. Porter's; but their assistance had become unnecessary, from our having secured the very raff, on which we found the light-wood and ashes, as before noticed. The woods continued burning the whole of this day, but the fire appeared on the decline towards evening.

Early the next morning, Mr. Hebden, myself, and two others, were ordered to the pine-barren, to fill some small casks with water, our stock being nearly

exhausted: off we set, taking with us, for protection, the two loaded muskets, though a moment's reflection would have pointed out their inutility, as it could not be reasonably supposed, that the persons against whom they were meant to be employed would remain in the thicket, or pine-barren, amidst surrounding flames; or that they would take shelter between the woods and the river. I was now grown intrepid, from a conviction that the Indians, by the time we should arrive at the sawpits, would be "over the hills and far awa." Designing to pass Mr. Porter's, it being the best way, just as we were turning into the creek leading to that gentleman's house, a very large alligator claimed our attention, at the distance of about four yards from our boat; it gazed earnestly at us, but, though its jaws were long, and formidably set with teeth, I felt none of that trepidation excited in my mind a few days before, by the voice of the long-snouted pig. Mr. Hebden discharged one of the muskets at it, and doubtless wounded it, as the water near the boat was coloured with blood, particularly when the animal rose above the water to breathe, after plunging under the boat; thereby nearly covering the whole of us with water. We rested on our oars some time, expecting its reappearance, but we never saw it more. On the beach we found a quantity of wrought timber on fire, but Mr. Porter's house had escaped, without sustaining the slightest injury.

As we rolled the casks through the thicket of live oaks, we found it was still on fire in many places ; so were the trunks of the largest pines, which were the only parts of them that remained in the appearance of wood, though much of their substance remained in another form ; for the very sawpits, out of which we expected to gain a sufficiency of water for present use, were literally filled with tar, generated by the burning of the pines. The ground was cracked in every direction, and the chasms filled up with the same combustible fluid ; disappointing our hopes, and rendering abortive our present undertaking. We were obliged to return to the ship, without obtaining the least quantity of water.

Unless apathy of soul commensurate to indolence of body, sunk the settlers into the most abject state of insensibility, what must have been the feelings of men witnessing the devastation of property, from which they had already derived, and hoped in future to derive, so much benefit ! What poignancy of reflection must have harrowed up the mind, when they investigated the cause of all their present alarms, with the dreary prospect of future sufferings, caused by, or originating in their neglect of delivering up to justice the violators of the laws of nature, and of existing treaties ! For it was in this very pine-barren, now the scene of awful and retributive vengeance, that the four unsuspecting Indians had been beguiled out of their property, and wantonly murdered ; an

account of which transaction I briefly received from one of the settlers, at a bonfire-meeting, mentioned page 257.

Absorbed in reflection, arising out of so flagrant an act of injustice, and its consequent evils, all thoughts of duty were absent from my mind, till Mr. Hebden very pleasantly observed that, as there was not the least chance of obtaining any water, we had best return and acquaint his brother-in-law with the circumstance. We did so, without loss of time, and afterwards procured some from St. Simon's, as soon as we got into the sound. The partly burnt raff was got on board and stowed, completing our cargo, for which I felt thankful; desirous of leaving scenes, which raised in the mind the most painful emotions,—pity for suffering innocence, and indignation at the perpetrators of and connivers in atrocities so foul.

CHAPTER XIII.

The Neptune drops down the River—Jealousy of a young Negro—Proceed to Sea—Arrive at St. Croix—The Author appointed Hostler to Captain Dale—Strictness of the Danish Soldiers—Pranks played upon them—Tyranny of the Danish Sailors—Revenge of the English—Miserable appearance of the Military—Dreadful flagellation inflicted on the Negroes—Diving for Conch Shells—Cruelty of Captain Dale—The Neptune leaves the Harbour to take in Sand ballast—Manchineel Apples—Mode of catching Land-crabs and Lobsters.

ALL safe on board, we unmoored the ship ; dropt down the river ; and, next day, got into the sound, where we lay at anchor three or four days, preparing for sea. Here my old messmate, the Dutchman, as well as myself, obtained leave to go ashore. The first object of our attention was, the good natured Mr. Basket, who renewed his entreaties for me to stop at St. Simon's, and engage with him ; but too much misery existed here, for the place to have any charms to one already tired of the same dull round of melancholy scenes ; therefore I told him very gravely, that I had read of St. Simon suffering martyrdom in a good cause ; but that, if I should stop, and fall into the hands of the Indians, I should have to die in a bad one, which I could never reconcile myself to. Sensible of the error they had committed,

he shook his head, and changed the subject, by inquiring how we had fared since we last discoursed on the best plan of imitating Spanish dollars? After listening patiently to a detailed account of what we had done and suffered, through fear, he observed that, had he known our want of fire-arms and ammunition, he could have furnished us with both. He immediately produced several muskets, of English manufacture, for the use of the British army. Surprised to see them in his possession, I asked how he had obtained them? He replied, they were got from the macaronies. Still in the dark as to his meaning, I inquired whom he denominated such? The 33d regiment, was his reply. At the mention of this regiment, my heart suffered great palpitation, knowing that the 33d, or ava-cake lads, chiefly consisted of young men from Leeds, and the manufacturing towns in the neighbourhood. Having a number of acquaintances in that corps, thought I, as I handled the pieces, these very firelocks may have been kept in order by, and have preserved the lives of some of my companions, who, when they parted with them, little thought of my examining them in the house of a blacksmith, at St. Simon's! This reflection produced a train of ideas, that depressed my spirits, presenting home to view, in colours more captivating than a vitiated judgment would allow it to possess, at the time when I was planning an escape from it. A comparison of what I was, with what

I might have been, but for headstrong passion, oppressed me still more ; from which feelings, however, I found a temporary relief, in an enlivening draught of cold punch prepared by Mrs. Basket, from whom, after partaking of her friendly cheer, we purchased some shirts and trowsers ; whose services had been intended for the Indians, as already noticed. After enjoying each other's company some time, we parted good friends, and repaired on board.

The following evening, my Dutch companion and I went ashore again, purchased a little rum and tobacco, and went to an encampment of negroes, at no great distance from Mr. Club's, amongst whom John had met with great civility, during the time between leaving the employ and re-engaging. We found them seated round their fires, indulging in mirthful conversation. Many of them recognized the Hollander, and seemed pleased to see him again. We joined the sable circle, sat down amongst them, dealt out tobacco, and made a little rum and water in the rind of a gourd ; at which some of them showed their white teeth, expressive of satisfaction. The smile of cheerfulness was manifest on every countenance, and all went on very pleasantly, till the Dutchman, warmed by the interesting simplicity of a young female black, named Mary, attempted to take some liberties with her. This gave umbrage to a negro of her own age, who had an affection for

her. In vain the lover repeated, "you mus no tusse (touch) Mary!" Liquor heightened John's warmth, and he renewed his impertinencies. A different passion swelled the breast of the young negro, who, under strong emotions of displeasure, paced the ground "to and fro." Again he remonstrated with the aggressor, but with no better success; for he was resolved to have a kiss. The more advanced in years laughed loudly at the struggle, considering it fun; whilst the young man's feelings were wound up to jealousy, for Mary did not appear half so dissatisfied as he. His eyes gave indications of savage revenge; and his whole deportment was that of one bent on something desperate, but restrained through fear. Sorry to witness any unpleasantness, caused too by the temerity of my messmate, I importuned him to act more properly, to leave off trifling, and be seated on the same side of the fire as I was, or I would leave him. The company present saw I was ashamed of Mynheer's conduct, and as they saw I was too young to have any authority over him, they used their influence with the young black, to persuade him to sit down, averring that he had no cause for anger, assuring him, in a jocular way, that Mary did not feel much inclination to leave the party, and go with him. Such language was only heaping fuel on the fire raging in his breast: for, with a look of indescribable sternness, and a step worthy a more exalted character

than that of a slave, he came up to us, and, in the undisguised language of a feeling heart, addressed us with, "You, backaras, for what you come here? Neagre no wante you! Neagre go wid neagre, backara go to backara! you tusse Mary any more, by G—d, me will kerri (kill) you!" He was standing behind the Dutchman, with an axe in his hand, as he delivered this short, but empasioned speech.

"Tread on a worm, and it will turn again," said I to John, in an under voice, at the same time rising; "I am determined to go," continued I, speaking rather louder, and looking very serious. "Damce mine blood, Darby," said John, "would you leave your vader?"—"Unless you will accompany me, I must," said I.—"I will go vid you all de vorld over, Darby," rejoined he, as he held out his right hand for me to assist him to rise, for John was Dutch built. The enraged negro bit his under lip, and scowled with his half-closed eyes, as he paced up and down, apparently in great perturbation of mind. As soon as the offending Dutchman had gained his feet, without even apologizing for his rudeness, we left the party abruptly. The storm that had for some time been gathering, seemed ready to hurl its destructive force against all opposed to its rage. Had stupidity induced another moment's stay, fatal might have been the result! On our way down to the beach, I mentioned the provocation he had given to the young man, taking notice of the axe, and the

great risk he ran of feeling its weight: he replied, "I tink noting of dat; he vould not strike de vite man!" I thought quite differently, but did not contradict him; for having my attention drawn from John to another object, I cast anchor near to a tree, he walking gently on towards the beach; I had not remained long in the station I had taken, ere I saw the young black pass the tree, without observing me; he wore a determined look, and seemed to grasp the axe with fervency. An enraged negro, armed with a weapon capable of destroying life at a single blow, and stimulated to such an act by that exasperating passion, jealousy, is an object fit to engage the pencil of an artist. John walked on, and the negro followed in a quicker pace. Conscious that I had not offended him, and dreading the consequence of his overtaking the more than half-intoxicated Dutchman, I hailed him; when, quick as thought, he turned round, and answered me, slackening his pace, and allowing me to come up with him. We shook hands, as cordially as real friends do on their first meeting, after a painful separation. At my request, he laid down the axe, as soon as we overtook my bousy messmate; and, although he had left the party, for the purpose of despatching him, he was easily appeased, and became quite reconciled. As the best apology I could offer, for the insult he had received, I told him, backara had got too much rum: when he shrewdly

observed, " he havve too mush rum now : havve too mush before : neagre no allow backara to tusse him woman. Backara did tusse Mary !" Finding his anger assuaged, I assured him my companion would be very sorry for what he had done, as soon as he became sober. It was enough ; and verified the Hebrew proverb, " A gentle word turneth away wrath !" We again shook hands, when, taking up the axe, we parted, good friends ; he returning to the camp, we to the Neptune.

In a very short time after getting aboard, Mr. Hall, the Scots storekeeper, whom I had seen at Mr. Basket's, came aboard, and offered me an advantageous situation, if I would remain on the Island ; as he was going passenger in our ship to the Danish West India Island, St. Croix, to make some purchases. But, as I was no admirer of human wretchedness, which existed here in every possible shape, I thanked him for the favour he intended me ; at the same time assuring him I would not remain at St. Simon's, if I might have the whole island for stopping there. Such an assurance, as it was intended, terminated our conversation on the subject ; immediately after which he went ashore, but soon returned with sea stores, luggage, &c. We now took in a supply of fresh water, some rice and Indian corn, and also a quantity of pickled pork ; the pigs furnishing which had been fed on fish, by Mr. Fulford, the old pilot. A horse belonging to Captain Dale was lastly got on board.

On the following morning, we weighed anchor, and got over the bar, keeping within shore. Approaching Cumberland Island, we witnessed another scene of devastation, the conflagration of several houses; supposed to be effected by the Indians, whose open attacks, and subtle machinations, equally surprised and ruined those against whom they were employed. These deserted, smoking buildings, were the last sad proofs that I saw, of Indian vengeance poured out upon this ill-fated country. No combination of words, no figure of speech, could adequately describe the distress occasioned by the Indian war. Dejected and spiritless, the settlers viewed, with hopeless eye, the produce of the land approaching to maturity; ere night invested their hemisphere with gloom, the shooting blade, or ripening grain, might be burnt up. Neither age, sex, nor condition, was a guarantee of safety. Even the sailors of European nations felt the greatest alarm, though no ways accessory to the villanous act from which the war originated, being fearful of falling into the hands of some of these scalp-prizing savages. Never did I leave a place with less regret, never having witnessed, in any other place, so many scenes of wretchedness, so much of individual misery! Sapello Island I had before seen preparing against an attack; and the inhabitants of Darien thrown into the greatest consternation, by apprehensions of a

visit: but, at St. Simon's, fear paralyzed every heart; despair bewildered the brain; and the whole population were involved in ruin!

Half-past ten o'clock, a.m. was the time when the Neptune proceeded out to sea, for St. Croix. The wind being favourable during the whole passage, we arrived off the gut, or entrance leading to Bass end, or Christianstøed, within three weeks; a time which, though short in reality, appeared long to us, the vessel proving very leaky, our provisions extremely bad, and Captain Dale very cross and surly. One or other of us was constantly at the pump. Sour rice, or flour made from Indian corn, was substituted for bread: and Captain Dale looked as black as a north-east wind, and gave his orders with the austerity of a newly-made drill-sergeant.

We were soon accommodated with a pilot, who, taking the helm, carried us through the gut, which was very narrow, leading into the harbour; which is not only spacious, but convenient for shipping. It was well filled with Danish and American ships; there was also one from Ireland, the Halifax, of Belfast. In order to bring up near to the wharf, which was a desirable station, it was necessary for us to pass great numbers of ships at anchor, to effect which, with our sails set, I deemed an impossibility: but the pilot, still at the helm, directing the managing of the topsails, soon convinced me I had formed an

erroneous idea ; for he, with all the ease and dexterity of a skilful skater, passed by or through them all, without touching any, and placed us in our appointed station, within thirty yards of the wharf. On the following day, we began to raff our timber, preparatory to getting it ashore ; the place of its destination was a flat piece of ground about two hundred yards further up the harbour.

Capt. Dale, who, with all his imperfections, was a friend to the brute creation, caring infinitely more for his horse than for the sailors in his employ, as soon as his favourite was landed, appointed me both feeding and training groom. Some little time after arriving at St. Croix, he added another remarkably fine horse to his stud, thereby increasing my labour, that also being consigned to my care and management. Though I had no ambition to be thought a knowing one amongst the Yorkshire stable boys, on my return home, or ever hoped to contend with Leu Jewison for the gold cup at Doncaster, I applied myself assiduously to the duties of my new office, which furnished the means of going ashore much oftener than I otherwise should have had an opportunity of doing ; a circumstance “devoutly to be wished.”

The Danish authorities were much more particular here, respecting sailors being ashore, than the French at Guadaloupe. As soon as eight o'clock p. m. arrives, the evening gun is fired, a number of

soldiers, headed by a drum and fife, march from the fort to their respective posts in different parts of the town, where they mount guard, and become the watchmen of the night. They have to answer a call from the fort, every half hour during the night; each and every one returns an answer, passing it from one post to another, which keeps them constantly on the alert, and prevents many nocturnal depredations. As the wharf is near the fort, some of the soldiers arrive there immediately after the gun is fired: as soon as they are told off, away they scud down to the water side, hoping to find some ship's boat, without any one in it. Should ignorance of the custom, or inadvertency, have detained the person to whom the boat is entrusted, the soldiers seize it as a lawful prize, and drag it out of the water, by means of a wheel-carriage provided for the purpose. A price is set on the boat below its real worth, which is generally paid by its owner. I have frequently diverted myself, by disappointing the sentinels on the wharf, when left in charge of our boat, by lying down therein, thus inducing a belief that it was deserted. This was only practicable at dark; when, the soldiers, elate with the prospect of a prize, would creep slowly down to the edge of the water; leap into the boat, and, on my springing upon my feet, would look foolishly at each other, immediately jump ashore again, and, swearing a few oaths, slink away, in search of booty in some other quarter: not

caring to remain long near the place where they have suffered a disappointment, as many of them had received chastisement, for evincing too eager a desire to gain a prize. It was no uncommon thing for a number of sailors to leave their boat, sauntering about a few yards therefrom, merely to try whether the soldiers would take advantage of their absence, always being careful to be near enough to gain the boat before the troops, should any make their appearance; when the latter would sometimes suffer for their eagerness to reach the boat first. As we had no grog allowed from the ship, and as sailors are unhappy without it, we soon found a rum store, kept by an aged Spanish lady; to whose house we were ever welcome, though we did not here run into the same extravagance as at Captain Jack's, of Basse Terre, Guadaloupe.

That revenge is sweet, though perhaps not justifiable, is acknowledged by the great bulk of the people of all nations; and nearly all, except the regenerated Christian, practise retaliation, without any compunctious feelings. As the Danish soldiers took every opportunity to annoy the sailors of all nations, we, in return, prided ourselves in tricking the Danish soldiers. Though we could obtain any quantity of spirits in the day-time, to take on board; and though we were forbidden to remain ashore after the firing of the evening gun; yet, the better to retaliate on these prize-hunting Danes, we deferred providing

ourselves with spirits beyond the prescribed time ; and I have frequently, at the risk of paying a fine of four pieces of eight, found my way to the rum store of the Spanish lady, contiguous to the wharf, in despite of their greatest vigilance : she used to favour my escape out of a back door, joining up to which were a number of empty sugar hogsheads, at different distances from each other, that facilitated my return to the boat. This scheme did not remain long undiscovered ; and, to prevent a recurrence to it, the soldiers placed the hogsheads close together, so that no one could pass between them ; and any one going on the outside would be observed by them, and of course would be detained. The English are said to be more skilful in improvement, than invention : it may be so ; but I fancied myself amazingly clever, in projecting a plan to thwart the intentions of the Danes. Aided by others, we selected from amongst the rest such of the hogsheads as were without heads or ends ; this was done in the course of the day, when the military were on other duties, and absent from the wharf. Through these hogsheads, a cylindrical passage was formed, from the Spanish lady's rum store, to the waterside ; which passage I traversed, when any spirits were wanted, to make into grog, for our evening's carouse. Capt. Coates and the mate, favouring the project, readily granted us the use of the boat, whenever we wished to carry on the joke, which they both enjoyed.

One night, as I was returning from the store, down the wooden passage, I was alarmed by a noise, which caused me to hurry on towards the boat, wherein one person, at least, always remained. Afraid of detection, and consequent detention, away I posted down the headless hogsheads, with more speed than good luck. I was fortunate enough, indeed, to escape falling into the hands of my pursuers, who, having discovered my plan, broke the line of communication, and were within the length of three hogsheads of me, as I jumped into the boat; but I had the misfortune to lose the bottle of rum, which I had ventured to fetch; for, in my hurry to escape, as I heard them displacing the hogsheads to unkennel me, I fell, and the bottle was broken, the rum spilt, and one of my hands cut with a piece of the broken glass. The day following, the soldiers were employed in rearing the hogsheads on end, and placing them one upon another, thus frustrating another of our plans for defeating their wishes to make us conform to laws, repugnant to our feelings as Englishmen, who, in the land of freedom, know no such restrictions. Desirous of teasing the soldiers in every possible way that suggested itself, we frequently mocked them, as they called out to each other half hourly; irritating them to a wonderful degree, and rendering them much more watchful.

The crew of the *Halifax*, of Belfast, had received many insults from, and had frequently quarrelled

with both Danish soldiers and sailors; for, if the Danish sailors met with an English sailor alone, he was sure to receive a sound drubbing. Such treatment excited the greatest indignation in men naturally courageous, and every British heart panted for an opportunity of correcting the mistake the Danes seemed to labour under, in fancying themselves superior to the English, because more numerous. Some little time after our last project, for visiting the rum-store after the firing of the evening gun, failed, an English brig arrived at Bass end, whose crew were no sooner made acquainted with the tyranny of the Danish sailors, than a plan was laid down amongst them, to retaliate. The plan was to be carried into effect on the following Sunday. The Danes are particularly afraid of being taken to the fort; to guard against which, they are very careful in being on the wharf before the gun announces eight o'clock. A knowledge of this custom enabled the English to execute their plan, with the success they hoped for. During the day, they had received many insults, without resenting them in a single instance, for fear of disconcerting their plan, so soon to be put in execution. Three streets led to the wharf; one in a direct line, and two at right angles branching off. In these two streets the English sailors assembled, unobserved by the Danish, who had repaired to the wharf: one or two of the hands of the Halifax were stationed in the street leading

in a direct line to the wharf, the better to observe the motions of the enemy, and to give a signal for a simultaneous rushing forth of their combined forces. A general bustle manifested itself; many of the Danes were getting into their respective boats; every ear was attentively listening for the signal, and every heart panted for revenge. The impetuous spirits of the Irish were only restrained by the arguments of the cooler English. When, on the signal being given, out rushed the united crews of the Halifax and the newly-arrived brig, who, concentrating themselves, and forming a line, without allowing the Danes time to recover from their surprise at a British hurrah, advanced at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour, and in an instant swept all before them. For, although the Danes were more than double the number of our united hands, yet the suddenness and unexpectedness of the event, producing an eagerness in the Danes to get into their boats, rendered victory easy, and gave the assailants a fine opportunity of gaining their several ships, without the least molestation, or even resistance; their boats being in a state of readiness to receive them. I had not an opportunity of joining the phalanx, but was favoured with a fine view of the skirmish from our vessel, which lay near to the scene of action. Many paid dearly for the insults they had given, being severely hurt by falling into their boats; others, who fell into the

water, were nearly drowned, and only rescued from death by the great exertions of very numerous boats picking them up. Our boat took in two, one of whom was nearly exhausted, having quantum sufficient of wine and salt water in him. Strange as it may appear, not the least notice was taken of this affair, though we expected hearing of it in an unpleasant manner.

In a day or two after this rencounter, the *Halifax* left, in which I might have shipt, had her destination been agreeable to me ; she was bound for Newfoundland, thence up the Mediterranean, and finally to Liverpool. But I preferred staying on board the *Neptune*, expecting thereby an earlier completion of my wish to return to England.

Nothing else could have induced me to stop in the employment of Captain Dale, who was very little better than the generality of Guinea captains. His ill treatment of the mate, Mr. Hebden, his brother-in-law, and Tom, the black cook, caused them to desert the ship ; nor did those who remained with him fare much better. Indeed the whole crew would have left the vessel, had it not been for the mild temper and pleasing manners of Captain Coates. Such was the avarice of Captain Sedgefield Dale, that, notwithstanding the whole of the numerous American vessels lying there, laden with timber like ourselves, had negroes to assist in discharging their cargoes, we were denied such assistance, and compelled to land

our cargo ourselves, several of the hands having to stand in the water from morning till night. From the employment I found as a groom, particularly since Capt. Dale won his second horse in a lottery, I escaped many of the hardships to which others were exposed.

Thus favoured, I frequently went to see the soldiers go through their exercise, and take a view of their general appearance, which was very unfavourable : they were dirty in the extreme, and, as a body of men, miserable looking indeed, having none of that healthful glow observable in the English soldiery, and being tame and dejected in spirits, slow and ill-timed in their evolutions, low in stature, and, judging from the musquito trowsers, generally denied the advantage of good legs. In fact, bearing in mind the appearance of the British army, though such havoc had recently been made in its ranks by the disastrous American war ; remembering too the French troops at Guadaloupe, who were well appointed, clean, and lively ; and contrasting these with the Danish troops at St. Croix, the latter appeared every way unworthy the name of soldiers. I was insensibly led into a train of reflections, arising out of the consideration, that these unsoldier-like soldiers were the lineal descendants of those northern tribes, who had so often, and so wantonly, desolated England ; and my young mind exulted in the idea, that Britons, united, could not only smile indignantly at the puny

efforts of these former invaders of their country, but, under establishments founded in wisdom and equity, though not infallible, could keep the world at bay, as long as the throne of their king was venerated by the hearts of its defenders.

At St. Croix, negroes who have committed any offence, are generally sent to the fort to be punished, which is done privately and cruelly, by flogging ; though not so privately as to prevent their cries being heard at a considerable distance. I had the method of punishment described to me by a negro, who had the care of Mr. Manson's pigs ; he having made his escape from his former master at West End, near Frederickstœd, St. Croix, after being punished, along with two other negroes, for tapping a rum puncheon, by means of a small gimlet, when employed at the wharf. When discovered, they were committed to the fort ; tied up to a post, and inhumanly flogged, as his back could testify ; that part, and his shoulders, representing a kind of basket-work, the flesh thereon being raised in stripes nearly as thick as my finger, occasioned by the nature of the instrument used to inflict punishment, and the mode of inflicting it. The instrument is a whip, made of raw hide, twisted like our carter's whips, and is called the cowskin : the mode of using it is—when the delinquent is tied to the post, two men are employed to scourge him, one of whom flogs with his right arm, the other with his left ; thereby raising weals that remain visible during life ;

so that it is an easy matter to know any one who has tasted the *cow-kin*, as Mr. Manson's swineherd called it. After suffering flagellation, offenders, guarded by soldiers, have to fetch water from the sea to the fort in tubs, calculated for two persons to carry. These tubs are to be filled, by lading the water in with their hands alone ; which, to mortify the unfortunate wretches the more, is poured out in the fort, and suffered to run to waste : they are thus obliged to renew their toil, day after day, until liberated. I have seen prisoners filling such tubs as he described, without any thing to lade the water, except their bare hands.

Notwithstanding the great variety of fish abounding here, the market is but indifferently supplied, except with large conchs, procured by negroes, some of whom make diving for them their principal employment. Unacquainted with the method of procuring these beautifully enamelled shells, and ever desirous of increasing my little capital of knowledge, I made inquiry of Dutch John, who knew every thing, and was just getting an account of the method, in broken English, though more intelligible than his own method of making necromantic gimlets, when two diving negroes came on board the *Nep-tune*, requesting us to give them a little fat, such as is usually scummed off the pot, in which the meat is boiled. I, always inquisitive, inquired the use to which they meant to apply it, when one of them,

by way of answer, exclaimed, "Massa, you no know de fat teady de wata, by trowing a little bit in, where de wata do ripple?" He then assured us that they could see the conchs at the bottom much better, after the fat had smoothed the surface of the water; and they invited us to accompany them, if we were strangers to the practice of diving. Well pleased with the slave's frankness, but more so with a prospect of witnessing a mode of fishing to me entirely new, I asked Captain Coates permission to accompany them, who, more than ever desirous to oblige, readily granted my request. Preparatory to going out of harbour, on our diving expedition, we provided ourselves with a large quantity of fat, from the pork that had been fed by the industrious pilot, at St. Simon's; which, in smell and appearance, resembled fish oil.

As soon as we were well out of harbour, turning to the left, near to a coral reef, of which there are several large ones in this part, the divers unshipt the oars, took their stations in the boat, over the sides of which they gazed steadfastly upon the water, which was remarkably clear, till a living conch was descried at the bottom, then covered with a depth of water measuring from fifteen to twenty yards. No sooner was the conch deemed worthy their attention, than one of the negroes, precipitating himself into the water, with eyes open, went, like an arrow shot from a bow, direct to the

object of his attention ; this secured, he moved on to another, placed at a little distance from the first ; this he also removed from its marine station, and immediately ascended, bearing one in each hand. They were taken from him by the negro in the boat, and thrown therein as a common stock, or joint property. Scarcely was he relieved from the first two, ere we saw a third, and lost no time in pointing it out to him, as the boat was drifting gently on : it was soon within his grasp ; for down he went, head foremost, with the velocity of a hawk springing on a lark ; this was an uncommonly large one, and, as far as we could see inside the shell, exhibited the richest enamel, covering the finest tints, from the palest rose to the deepest carnation ; shaded by the hand of nature, and shaming by comparison the softest touches of the pencil. To the agility and dexterity of a frog, in diving and swimming, these negroes added the vision of the lynx, in being able not only to discern, but to discriminate, through such a body of water, though remarkably diaphanous, the shells containing living fishes, from such as contained dead ones, or were empty, as the boat drifted along the smoothened surface of the lately rippling stream. The empty shells far outnumbered the full ones, which, when either of them saw, were sure to be made a prize of by one or the other ; though he who dived the first was much more expert than his companion, frequently bringing up

two at once. When fatigued with exertion, till nearly exhausted, they ceased exploring for more; and, having acquired many or few, returned, to be in time for the market. Ceasing diving for the day, they presented me with two of the most beautiful; as I preferred richness of tint and smoothness of enamel, to bulkiness of shell, or delicacy of fish. Before putting me on board, they instructed me how to extract the conch, without injuring the shell; though they, to save time, usually broke them with a large hammer. When the conchs are properly freed from their shells, they are exposed for sale in the market; a soup being made therefrom, which is a very popular dish, and much relished.

The method of extracting the conch, in order to preserve the shell, is similar to that practised in drawing a periwinkle out of its sable tenement. An iron skewer is thrust through the animal, just under the part called the shoe, with which the provident care of the Almighty has favoured it, as a protection against external injuries; and which it instinctively closes, with adhesive force, on the too near approach or touch of an assailant, though incapable of resisting the rapacity of man. The skewer, placed as described, is pulled gradually, till the whole of the fish is extracted; it yielding to the operation with as much reluctance, as a badger does to that of being drawn from its hole of retreat, by the powerful jaws of a keen-biting terrier. Some of these fishes, when

extended out, will measure upwards of three feet. The market is also partially supplied with land-crabs and lobsters ; from the former of these, as well as from the conch, a soup is made, of which I have frequently partaken.

Though I was hostler in ordinary to Capt. Dale, without the advantage of vails, so little respect had he for his domestics, that the drudgery of the stable did not exempt me from that of the ship ; for he, unconscionable task-master ! coming on board, ordered me to go to a sugar-house, situate two miles from the town, to fetch some sugar to the ship, giving me directions to the place ; following which, I soon found it, and in it a white man, to whom I communicated my business. His face appeared at variance with the tender passions, an inflexible sternness corrugating his forehead, as he commanded two negroes to bring out a large coarse bag of sugar ; the appearance of which was enough to give a youth the horrors, it proving a task for the two slaves to carry on a kind of hand barrow. The stern countenanced representative of tyranny left me, the two blacks, and the sugar, without speaking a word. The bag was with difficulty raised up, and placed on my shoulders ; but I was no Samson ; and its ponderous weight made me stagger under it. By the time I had got six yards from the starting post, I was relieved from its pressure ; down came the bag, nearly pulling me backwards upon it, and catching my

heels in the fall. Convinced of my inability to carry the bag, I resolved to divide the contents, and make two or three trips for it; but a negro, coming up to me, remarked that, as one of their people was going to Bass End with a hogshead of sugar on a dray, I might put the bag thereon. Cheering prospect! that two oxen were likely to draw the burden designed by Captain Dale for a stripling to carry! With patience I waited the yoking of the oxen, and then, requesting of the negro who had the management of them, the favour of a place for my load, he very coolly replied, his beasts were not accustomed to draw more than one hogshead at a time, nor would they draw more to oblige me or any body else. When I viewed the beasts, I thought them better calculated to draw compassion on themselves, than sugar for others, being little more than skin and bone, and scarcely able to trail one leg after another: he, however, at last consented to my proposal, but looked very gruff. All ready, off the two oxen set, with as much spirit as could be expected from skeletons: but, when they had accomplished about half their journey, one fell sick; completely fagged. Its place was soon supplied by another, taken out of a field by the road side, but not before the driver of the team pulled off the bag; increasing in sulkiness: however as soon as the fresh ox was yoked, I had the good fortune to prevail on him to allow it to be replaced on the dray: and on we jog-

ged till we arrived at the skirts of the town. Here another ox falling sick, the petulant negro tossed my bag of sugar on the ground, and, when the beast was a little recovered, drove on, leaving me to manage as well as I could.

As I was dragging it to the road side, a person, with a handkerchief tied round his head, after the manner of the Spaniards in the West Indies, came up to me, and looked me in the face, saying, "Ah! Darby! is that you?" It was Tom Grace, the American black, who had deserted our ship, in consequence of ill-treatment from Captain Dale. "What have you there?" inquired Tom. "Some of the sweets of life," said I, "of which I am tired, having carried it nearly two miles;" carefully keeping the sick oxen out of the question. Tom looked at the bag—walked round it—eyed its dimensions again and again—clasped it in his arms—felt its weight—and let it fall, assuring me that he would have carried it for me, but for fear of being seen by our captain, and apprehended. "There is not the least cause for alarm," said I: the cook marched once more round the bag, saying, as he upraised it, "Darby, do you help it upon my back, and I'll give you a spell at it." Some people passing by, observing me attempting to raise it, cheerfully assisted me in the task, and off Tom went, pretty briskly; but had not gone fifty yards before he slackened his pace, complained of the lumps hurting his back,

halted, and wondered how I had borne it so far ! Knowing that Tom was vain of his strength, I made light of the matter, and hoped to see the day, when I should consider such a bag as that no burden to me. It had the desired effect ; he not liking to be beaten by me, tugged at it again till we came to a strong post. Tom shewed evident signs of being tired, but was above complaining, only expressing a desire to have it placed better on his back. Resting it on the post, Tom exclaimed, “ Darby, I wish Captain Dale must lug this bag daily, till he became a good and feeling man.” “ Amen,” said I, emphatically, as he bent down to receive the two hundred weight of moist sugar on his shoulders. Fifty yards from the post, he, staggering under it, tossed it off his shoulders, swearing that he durst not carry it any further, for fear of being discovered and forced on board. I thanked him for what he had done ; we shook hands and parted. After which, entrusting the sugar to the care of a person, I repaired on board our ship, obtained assistance, went for the sugar, and got it safely on board just before the firing of the evening gun. If Captain Dale’s motive for sending me two miles for two hundred-weight of sugar, at a time when he had a pair of horses in the stable, was meant as a punishment to me, for some unknown offence, how chagrined and disappointed he must have felt, when he learned that my excursion was attended with novelty, and, from attendant incidents, pleasant.

As soon as our cargo was discharged, our ship was got out of the harbour, at the entrance of which we brought up, near a small island, in order to take in sand ballast. As we intended repairing the bottom of the boat, the first thing that we did after landing on the small island, a fire was necessary for the purpose of melting pitch; to ensure which, a light was taken from on board, and I, having an axe for the purpose, left the party, to go in search of some firewood. I had not proceeded far before my attention was arrested by a tree, laden with small apples, some of which I felt a strong desire to possess; but, not being able to reach the boughs, I made a clumsy throw with the axe, and brought several down. Beautiful in appearance, they tempted me strongly to eat, as I was passionately fond of fruit: but the consideration that, were they innoxious, and fit for the service of man, they would not hang so invitingly, but would have been gathered, deterred me from gratifying my inclination. However, I cut one with the axe, holding it in my hand; in smell and appearance, when cut, it so exactly resembled some of the apples of England, that I had raised one of the halves up to my mouth, with an intention of tasting it, when one of our crew, seeing me under the tree, and knowing the deleterious nature of its fruit, came running up to me, knocked the cut apple out of my hand, asking what I was going to do? assuring me that if I eat thereof, I should soon

be a corpse, for that the apples of the manchineel tree were the most deadly poison, not only to man, but also to cattle, none of whom will even shelter under its branches. Thankful for so providential an escape, I silently adored that Being, "whose ways are past finding out;" who had, I concluded, directed the steps of my messmate to the manchineel tree, of whose deadly effects I had often heard, but had never witnessed in others, or even had an opportunity of seeing the tree itself. In smelling at the apple, after cutting it, I had accidentally touched my nose therewith, when a blister almost instantaneously rose upon it, and such was the corrosive nature of the juice and a liquid that the apple produced, that blisters were immediately raised between the fingers, or wherever they happened to touch. I now cast away what at first appeared a prize, happy to escape the consequence that would have resulted from taking into the stomach the inviting fruit, in appearance like the golden pippin. The manchineel tree is indigenous here, as well as the other West India Islands; in size it equals the English oak, producing beautifully grained wood, of durable texture, capable of receiving a high polish, and of being applied to useful and ornamental purposes, under proper management; but, unless the juice of the bark is burnt out, at the time of cutting down the tree, such is its corrosive nature that, it will, like the apples, raise blisters on the tender parts of the

body, and destroy the fabric of linen, if exposed to its touch.

After returning to my messmates with some firewood, during the time the boat was getting calked, and her bottom repaired, I took a turn on the island, thereby having an opportunity of seeing a number of sheep. The greatest part of them resembled goats in their covering; for, having lost their wool, that was sticking to the bushes of the prickly pear, and strewed on the ground, it was succeeded by short stiff hair. The berries of the prickly pear, when ripe, are pleasant eating, and prescribed as a specific in the bloody flux, so very prevalent in the West Indies. As I was collecting some of these berries, I fell in with an old black man, the only human inhabitant of the island. He invited me to his hut, the most miserable-looking one I had ever witnessed. It was scarcely an apology for the residence of man in the lowest state of uncivilized nature; being nothing more than a number of barrel hoops stuck in the ground, and covered with a piece of tarpawling; his bed was dried leaves; no furniture of any description added to his comfort. In this place, he said he stopt several weeks, being supplied with provisions every two or three days, by the person whose property he was; who, in return, took with him whatever he had caught. Not seeing any thing likely to be the produce of labour, I inquired how he spent his time, and what he caught? In reply,

he informed me, that in the day time he caught land-crabs, in the night lobsters; shewing me some of each. Never having had an opportunity of seeing the former taken, I desired him to shew me the method, if it would be no disadvantage to him. Complying with my request, he immediately provided himself with a pickaxe, a spade, and a long supple stick; thus provided, we set off together in search of land-crabs, the whole species burrowing in the ground like rabbits. As soon as he discovered a fresh burrow, the supple stick was introduced as far as possible, by which he knew the direction the crab had taken, and was able to pursue it to its remotest recess, and then unhouse it, by means of the pickaxe, digging away the incumbent earth. I was soon gratified with a view of a remarkably large crab, nearly covered over with black hair, measuring more than three inches in length. I had seen many different species of this fish, but none so hairy, or equal in size to the one just caught, and those shewn me in his paltry hut.

The lobsters were somewhat like the large crawfish, some of them weighing four or five pounds each: but, as they were taken in the night-time, I had not an opportunity of seeing any caught. He, however, described his method of taking them in a very simple way, as simple as the method itself. It was performed, he said, by means of some lighted wood, and a staff, or club, one end being cased with

iron, having several spikes projecting therefrom, about an inch asunder, straight and without barbs. Carrying the lighted wood in his left hand, the iron-ended staff in his right, he approached the edge of the water, holding the blaze near to its surface. The lobsters, he said, attracted by the blazing wood, frequently sprang quite out of the water on the beach, falling an easy prey to him: but he most commonly struck them, when near enough to him, with one or other of the spikes, penetrating their crustaceous covering, and thereby enabling him to secure them.

After witnessing the old man's method of catching land-crabs, to me a novel mode of fishing; after learning theoretically how to seduce lobsters to their own destruction, and acknowledging the favour he had conferred on me, we parted. Leaving him busily employed with his pickaxe, spade, and supple stick, I returned to the boat, which was nearly ready for launching into the water. When afloat, we got in some sand, and proceeded to the ship; making a few trips for the same article, a small quantity being sufficient, merely for ballast, as we were only going round to West End, to take in a quantity of rum, sugar, &c.; the vessel being partly freighted by Mr. Hall, our passenger, from St. Simon's. Leaving Captain Dale and his two horses at Bass End, a light breeze soon carried us to

West End, where we brought up; moored the ship; and soon had her ready for taking in her cargo; superintended by Mr. Hall, as we were then without a mate.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Author and a Messmate resolve to leave the Neptune—
Their first Scheme abandoned—Unlucky Accident—Arrival of
an English Sloop at St. Croix—The Author quits the Neptune,
and obtains a passage in the Sloop to Grenada—Captain Dale
goes to the same place—Arrival at Grenada—Defrauded of my
Wages by Capt. Dale—Meet him accidentally, fourteen years
after, at Scarbrough—His appearance and circumstances at
that time.

As I had hoped for liberation from the Neptune, by some British vessel touching at St. Croix, from one of the English Islands, on her passage home, and as none had arrived when we had taken in nearly two-thirds of our cargo, I felt a strong inclination to desert, and wait for the expected opportunity; rather than return to Georgia, some parts of which appeared to me doomed to complete destruction, from the ravages of the Indians, and the unparalleled supineness of the settlers. Dutch John was equally dissatisfied; and, had not a ray of hope beamed on our minds, from an assurance of Mr. Hall, that, as soon as we had completed our cargo, we should sail for Baltimore, it is very likely we should have followed the example of Mr. Hebden and Tom Grace. Notwithstanding that my money was nearly done, and the prospect of an English vessel arriving before we should be ready for sea, became very doubtful,

I resolved, for the present, not to return to America, though at the risk of losing what wages were due to me; for I concluded that a man like Capt. Dale, who was anxious to take every advantage of his hands, during the time they were in his employ, would not hesitate to turn my leaving the Neptune, in the West Indies, to his own account, by refusing to pay me, when he knew I should have no chance of enforcing my just demands.

Such are the effects of disappointment, that, though the prospect of sailing for Baltimore had charms, compared with going back to Georgia, only a few days before, I was now, as well as Dutch John, determined to visit neither place, provided we could enter into any other employ. In hope of gaining some information on this head, we went ashore as usual on the Sunday, John, on this occasion, sporting one of the white shirts purchased at Mrs. Basket's, of St. Simon's. Perambulating the town, chance directed our steps to a small rum store, where were seated some Danish soldiers, with whom John soon entered into conversation, in the Danish language, which, from its near approximation to the dialect spoken in that part of Yorkshire whence I came, together with the smattering of it I had learned amongst these Danes, I understood sufficiently, to enable me to know the subject of their discourse. It turned on smuggling, denominated here the False Trade; carried on very extensively, between this island and the

Spanish main, Porto Rico, Crab Island, &c. Desirous of learning the nature of the False Trade, I entered into conversation with a Danish sailor, who spoke English about as well as I spoke his language. We understood each other tolerably well; from the account he gave me, I learned that, to a sailor, the advantages were great, counterbalanced, however, by great risks; those taken in it, by the *Guarda Costas*, or armed vessels belonging to Spain, being immediately hung. The Dutchman had often mentioned this trade to me, he having been employed therein; but I had not any idea of this being the very place from which he had sailed: though I subsequently learned, that he had shipt, as a boatswain, on board of a brig belonging to a Mr. Foster, of West End, who had a ship, the brig in question, and a schooner.

Having drunk pretty freely of grog, John was very easily persuaded by the soldiers to take a hand at cards with them. Confident of success, he sat down; but, with all his cunning, they were an overmatch for him, draining his pockets of the very last coin he possessed. He then applied to me for a small loan; as my whole stock was no more than two dollars, and as I was decidedly against gaming, I felt reluctance in advancing one half of my whole treasure, though at length, through his earnest importunities, I made a sacrifice of one dollar; for it soon followed the rest of John's money. Buoyed

up with the hope of a change of fortune, like most of the votaries of gaming, John pressed me closely for the last dollar. "Should that go too," inquired I, "who will pay our reckoning?" "Ah! Darby," said he, "mine luck has been pad, put it vill soon be petter." "It wont do," said I; "we are sure we must pay for the liquor we have drunk; but not at all sure of winning money to pay for it with: let your present loss be your last." No arguments of John being able to extract the solitary piece out of my pocket, he made a virtue of necessity; declined play; left his situation, placed himself along side of me and the Danish sailor, looked glum, and was so in reality; scarcely opening his mouth, except to take a swig at the grog; which was to be paid for jointly by Mynheer, the Danish sailor, and myself, who had drunk together. Intimating to the sailor our desire of discharging the account against us, and removing from a place where we were nearly, though not unfairly, done out of our money, he feigned an excuse to go to the door, keeping us waiting in suspense, a very considerable time; for, as he had not hinted his desire to desist from drinking, nor bidding us farewell, we expected his return; but expected it in vain! So that the whole expense fell upon the first and last persons in the firm; the amount thereof frightening one half of all the money we were both possessed of, which I paid. We then left, my comrade becoming more talkative, the grog,

of which he had “sift and sift,” giving a loose to his tongue: he explained more fully, as we walked along, the nature of the False Trade, assuring me that there was no danger of being captured by the Spaniards, if we could get into Mr. Foster’s employ, as his three vessels always sailed together, bidding defiance to the Spanish armed vessels.

His representation, though not florid, was favourable; and I began to feel an inclination to engage in the trade; the only objection I had, was the chance of falling into the hands of the Spaniards; dreading them, under such circumstances, as much as the back-settlers of America did the retaliating Indians. After some deliberation, we concluded to wait on Mr. Foster, for the purpose of engaging with him; the day was far spent, seven o’clock p. m. having arrived before we reached his house. On inquiring for Mr. Foster, we were informed that he was much indisposed, and could not be seen. Whether the half-tipsy Dutchman suspected the veracity of the servant or not, he never hinted to me; but, from that moment, he became more urgent to see him, desiring the servant to acquaint his master, that Garrett Barnes, who was once boatswain of his brig, wished to see him on particular business. The servant waited on Mr. Foster, and soon returned with instructions to conduct us to him. Accompanying the servant to the opposite side of the house, we all three ascended a flight of steps, on the out-

side, which led to a portico, supported by pillars of good workmanship, giving an imposing appearance to the house, which was the most elegant of any at West End, and was situated at the opposite end of the town to where the fort stood. When we were introduced to its proprietor, he was laid on a sofa: he recollected Garrett Barnes, and was well pleased to see him (Dutch John being a nick-name by which the Hollander was called). We soon acquainted him with the nature of our visit, receiving in return an assurance of an engagement in the morning: elated with the prospect, we thanked him for the promise, bowed more lowly than gracefully, bade him good night, and soon found ourselves under the portico, ready to descend the flight of steps; which having done, we, in a short time, gained the road leading from Mr. Foster's to the wharf; the sea lying on the left, and a row of houses running on the right.

Having more than half a mile to walk, and expecting to hear the evening gun fired every moment, I urged the Dutchman to exertion, desiring him to put his best leg foremost: but he was deaf to my entreaties, and scorned to alter his pace. I wished him in the same humour for walking, as Mr. Simpson was in at the time when he was afraid of being too late for dinner, at Bailey's, of Black Island. He would not budge a bit faster, though in danger of becoming a prize, perhaps to the very soldiers who

had won his money at cards. Nothing could induce him to move quicker, and I was unwilling to leave him. The consequence of his tardiness was, we were not more than half the way to the wharf when the drums beat at the fort ; had I preferred my own convenience to humouring my messmate, I could have gained the wharf before the soldiers, and might, very probably, have got into some boat. But, whenever I headed John a little, he bawled out, “ Stop, Darby, stop.” I now became deaf to his vociferations, and walked gently on, expecting him to follow me ; but, to my great surprise, he had wheeled about and left me.

Advancing towards the wharf, where I was sure some of the military would be posted, I went down to the waterside, and, fearful of being observed, laid down, at full length, amongst a quantity of plantain leaves, drift weed, &c. determined, if not discovered, to remain there till our ship should be hailed by Mr. Hall, or by either of our captains, ordering the boat to fetch them on board, a thing very commonly done in the evening ; but, after remaining nearly covered with the leaves till my patience was exhausted, none of the three coming, I hailed the Neptune myself, concluding that, as I was unobserved by the soldiers, if the boat should put off from the vessel, I could hail it, as it approached the wharf, not doubting but that it would pick me up ; it being my intention to dash into the water, as the boat

drew near to the beach. The moon shed a dazzling radiance over the clear water, but I could not desert our boat ; though, filled with anxiety, I directed the whole of my attention to our ship, keeping my eyes steadfastly fixed thereon. Notwithstanding I fancied I had used every precaution to prevent discovery, just as I was complimenting myself on my cleverness in eluding the vigilance of the soldiers, I heard something approach my leafy recess : calling to mind the quandary I was thrown into by a pig, when concealed behind the old barn door, while waiting for the return of Mungo with a cask of fresh water ; I took courage, raised up my head from amongst the plantain leaves, to convince myself who, or what was stirring : when, to my astonishment and mortification, two soldiers were standing close by me. They immediately seized me, with a rudeness becoming savages ; but I made not the least resistance, appearing to go with them with pleasure rather than reluctance. When we arrived on the road leading to the fort, at the distance of about thirty yards from the waterside, being placed between them, and walking at more than an ordinary speed, as if eager to get to the fort, he who guarded me on the side next to the water, quitted his hold ; the other slackened his grasp, holding me very slightly. Quickening our pace, till it approached nearly to a run, I was determined to risk one effort to regain my freedom, concluding within myself

that, were I to make a dart in a contrary direction, I might liberate myself from the one who still held me ; not doubting, from what I had seen of these soldiers before, that I should outstrip them in fleetness. The soldier who had let go his hold stepped rather before us ; I scarcely felt the other, nor did he feel me long ; for, making a spring, in so unexpected a manner, I was soon at liberty to make the best use I could of my legs, which I did by hurrying down to the beach, where I arrived before the two astonished Danes had recovered from their surprise.

Finding a clear place on the beach, I bolted into the water ; that being the only likely way I had of escaping : for, had I kept the road, their bawlings might have caused some of their comrades to intercept me. The only fear I had was, of being fired at, which proved groundless ; they contenting themselves with pursuing me to the water edge, and, when there, pelting me with stones, not one of which hit or came near me. When out of the reach of these missiles, I became stationary, calling out, and mocking them in the signals given from the fort ; thereby irritating their minds, already enraged by losing a prize. Chagrined and disappointed, they left the beach, wishing me at the devil for the slippery trick I had played them ; leaving me to my choice of returning ashore, or of swimming to the ships at anchor, towards which I made ; sometimes swimming on my back, by way of relief to myself.

In this position, my hat, which was well soaked with water, came over my ears ; but did not prevent me hearing some one hail the Neptune. I answered, though at a distance, merely in joke, for I was quite cheerful while swimming, pleased at having escaped from the soldiers, though pained in my feet ; for, although the place where I darted into the water appeared smooth and level, I found, on rushing in, that it abounded in large stones, over which I must pass before I could commence swimming. On answering the person who hailed our ship, the crew of a small vessel, at anchor near to where I was, hearing my voice in the water, supposed it was somebody drowning, and very humanely put off their boat, unobserved by me. Though swimming on my back, I heard a noise, looked round, and perceived a boat containing two negroes close to me ; they pressed me to get in ; but, as I felt a desire to swim to the Neptune, which lay considerably beyond the other vessels, the nearest of which was upwards of a hundred yards from the wharf, I at first objected, but afterwards consented. Well pleased to find their fears groundless, they soon put me on board their vessel, informing me she was in the false trade.

The crew, learning the cause of my being in the water, were highly delighted with a recital of the adventure, enjoying it more than I could ; for I now experienced great pain in my feet and legs ; unable to account for which, I mentioned it to the people

on board, who proposed and set about examining my feet. The result was, they were found to be covered over with the large sharp prickles of the sea-egg, or urchin, many of which measure more than two inches in length. The pain was acute, and increased till it became almost past bearing ; so that, had it not been for the love of liberty, inherent in the breast of an Englishman, I should have been better in the fort, with whole feet, than where I then was, having them full set with these sharp quill-like points. Several of the people with whom I was conversing, had been in the same predicament, and, unsolicited, imparted to me a method of extracting the pain-inflicting prickles that remained in the foot, sunk below the surface, or broken therein. Every moment the pain seemed to increase ; my feet and legs began to swell, so that, at the suggestion of some of the crew, I was put on board the Neptune, by the two negroes who had just before picked me up, in order to apply the remedy prescribed ; having first learned every particular respecting the false trade, corroborative of what I had heard before. Arrived at the ship, I found Captain Coates in a passion, at seeming neglect in his men not having immediately attended him with the boat ; those on board averred, that they had not heard the ship hailed : he, on the contrary, swore that he had been answered, and he thought by Darby ; but, not being on board at the time, I could not answer for myself.

Captain Coates perceiving me limp as I hobbled along the deck, accompanied by two strange negroes, inquired what I had been after? in a sterner manner than he commonly used towards me. Convinced that truth goes the farthest, I related to him my rencounter with the soldiers, acknowledged that I had answered him as I was swimming, inducing a belief in those who heard me in the water that some one was drowning; to rescue whom, the two negroes then present put off in their vessel's boat, and had not only picked me up, but rowed me to our own ship. Knowing that sailors often trump up stories to impose on the credulous, and were apt at invention to deceive their officers, he chose to trust to the evidenece of his own sense of touch, rather than to my declaration; to satisfy himself that I had been in the water, he felt at the whole of my clothes, particuarly my hat, nearly shapeless, from having imbibed such a quantity of water, that it formed an envelope to my ears. Finding me as wet as a newly-drowned rat, and the two negroes corroborating part of my story, it gained credit with the eaptain, who, enjoying a joke, if well managed, changed his rage into good humour, laughing loudly as he observed, "Darby, I'm glad you've proved yourself a true Yorkshire bite, and bilked the busy lubbers."

As soon as the captain retired to the cabin, all hands turned surgeons, or surgeon's mates. A

quantity of the same kind of fat as was thrown into the water to still its surface, previous to diving for conchs, was immediately made hot; in which my feet were immersed, according to instructions given in the small vessel. The intention of this was, to cause the prickles to start, as it is called, or work themselves out of the flesh. During the first three quarters of an hour, no symptoms of starting appeared, though I received much ease, by getting rid of many that were broken off, partly out of the foot; these were taken out with the fingers. The fat was kept as hot as I could bear it, and, to my inexpressible joy, at the expiration of the hour several began to start, rendering extraction as easy as taking out the quill feathers of a fowl in the moult, being in appearance nearly the same. The following morning my feet underwent another soaking, in the scum from the fat of fish-fed pigs. Aided by day-light, the last of some scores was drawn out, and in three days I was quite free from pain.

If the reader, in any of his juvenile ramblings, exploring the recesses of the yellow-flowered furze, desirous of robbing the linnet of its young, ever pitched forward with his pilfering hands amongst the well-defended branches of the prickly copse; or if, in pursuit of the many-coloured butterfly, eager to catch the shining fugitive, he ever fell upon a stubborn thistle, subjecting him to the slow and painful process of extracting the offending points of

its leaves with a needle, he will be able to form an idea of the pleasure I felt in the communication made to me, respecting the property of hot fat, in discharging from the flesh the prickles of the sea-egg, which exceed in painfulness the other two, before the operation, in proportion to their greater length and thickness.

As all hands expected hearing of Dutch John from the fort, we were agreeably surprised, when he came on board the next morning, to find that he had, by taking a tack into the country, eluded the whole of the clumsy-looking troops. His fine ruffled shirt, that, the day before, was white, looked little better than a soot bag; his appearance altogether was like that of a chimney sweep, which he ascribed to having slept in a filthy hut, amongst a number of negroes.

Changeable in mind as the chameleon is supposed to be in colour, we abandoned the project of entering into the false trade; and I reconciled myself to a trip to Baltimore, if we should be ready for sea before any English vessel should arrive, which now appeared very likely to be the case, a very few days only being necessary to enable us to complete taking in our cargo. Those few days passed away, and preparations were made for putting out to sea. All that remained undone was, the hoisting in of the boat, and getting up the anchor, both of which would have been effected in half an hour's time, and we should have been under way, had not a

small sloop, under English colours, come into the bay. The sight was to me gratifying beyond expression. I lost not a moment in thinking what plan to adopt; my resolve was instant and irrevocable. I flew to Captain Coates, in the cabin, stated the fact, and expressed my determination. He, coming upon deck, asserted pretty roundly that she was not English; Capt. Dale was more positive in the same declaration, but, by way of appeasing me, said that, when she brought up, I might go on board to make the inquiry, what she was, and whither bound. On her bringing up, within fifty yards of the Neptune, with a light heart I sprang into our boat, followed by one of our men. We waited not for a formal word of command, but, plying our oars, skimmed with velocity the fifty yards, and soon had an interview with the captain, from whom we learned that the sloop was the *James Campbell*, of Bermuda; that she was bound for St. Thomas's, another Danish island, not more than eight or ten leagues from St. Croix; and after there taking in a quantity of fustic, and other dyewoods, she would proceed to Grenada. My heart bounded with pleasure at the intelligence, and I asked the favour of a passage; which he readily granted, wishing me to lose no time in getting whatever I had on board the Neptune into his sloop, as he should set sail for St. Thomas's in a few hours. "The sooner and better," said I, as we got into the boat to return to our own

vessel: arrived at which, Captains Dale and Coates, as also Mr. Hall, the Scots store-keeper from St. Simon's, hastily inquired the sloop's name and destination. Anxiety appeared on the faces of all three, as if they hoped that my wishes would be frustrated; and they looked confused, when I detailed what had passed between me and the captain of the *James Campbell*.

When Captain Dale heard that she was bound for Grenada, he determined, if possible, to go there, to learn all particulars of the brig wrecked at Du Quesne bay; and desired me to return to the sloop, with his compliments to its captain, requesting to know if he and his servant could have a passage to Grenada. With the despatch of a courier pending the most important negotiations, I hastened to and returned from the sloop, bringing to Captain Dale the intelligence he wished to hear, that both he and his servant should be accommodated. Preparations were instantly made; all hands were busily employed in removing trunks, &c. into the boat. All on board mustered to see us before we left. Capt. Coates, as he shook me by the hand, wished me safely moored alongside of my friends, in the county that gave him birth—the young Irishman invoked the Virgin to take me under her protection—James Wilson hoped I should never be swamped again, as I journeyed through life, speaking with a fervency that convinced me he felt the force of his own expression—

Anthony, the Dane, promised to make my respects to Mr. Le Febre, the first time he visited Sapello Island, giving me a glass of rum, to drink Mr. and Mrs. M'Quin's good health in—Dutch John shed a tear of regret at parting—and I felt overpowered, as surrounded by this small band of messmates, all expressing, in different ways, their regard for poor Darby, as they called me. We reciprocally exchanged the grasp of friendship, and bade each other farewell.

On arriving at the sloop, Capt. Dale was welcomed on board by the captain thereof, with a degree of politeness, unpractised by him to whom it was shewn. From the deck of the *James Campbell*, I took a parting view of my late messmates, after being on board about an hour; the *Neptune* getting under way, in that time, and leaving West End, for Baltimore, with a fair wind. The same evening we left St. Croix, for St. Thomas's. At day-light the following morning, we passed Jansen's point, proceeded up the inlet, and brought up near the town, and almost instant preparations made for taking in the fustic and other dyewoods. Completing our cargo in three days, we sailed for Grenada; at which island we arrived in eight days, coming to an anchor at the head of the Canash. Captain Dale manifested the most anxious solicitude to go ashore, ordering his black servant to follow him as soon as possible, to a Mr. Carr's lodgings: to which place he

was soon enabled to go, from the assistance I rendered him, in getting his master's luggage into the boat.

Equally as destitute of money as I was when I first met with Capt. Coates, I was under the necessity of remaining on board, in order to save the expense of lodgings. Having some provisions, brought from the Neptune, I could stay with a better grace; at which, however, the captain wondered, and made a number of observations, so nearly allied to questions, that they drew from me the outlines of Capt. Dale's conduct to me. His advice was exactly the same as I had received from Mr. Aspinall, respecting Capt. Evans, to follow him wherever he went, till he paid me my wages. Following his advice, I repaired to Mr. Carr's, but was no better for my walk, the captain having gone to La Bay, but was expected returning on the following day. More desirous of being in possession of a little cash, than of exposing Captain Dale, I requested the servant, whom I saw, to acquaint him with my visit, and, in case I did not see him, to desire him to leave me a little money, as I was entirely without; consequently, under an obligation to the captain of the James Campbell, whose goodness allowed me to remain on board. The servant promised to advocate my cause, but Captain Dale had no veneration for that impressive saying, "Ask, and ye shall receive." On the following day, I was informed, that since my departure he had been at his lodgings, but that he immediately

left for Du Quesne, without leaving me a single dollar.

As his chief business centered in Du Quesne, and as I began to foresee that the obtaining my wages might be attended with some difficulty, I resolved to follow him to that place ; determined to dog him, as I had done Captain Evans, of the *Hudibras*. Night came, but no consolation for Darby came with it. Disappointment prevented the refreshing influence of sleep ; so that I might, on the following morning, exclaim with the poet, " With the sun I rise at morn." The early beams of that luminary shot through the clouds, as I left the *James Campbell*, for Du Quesne ; which place he had left a short time before my arrival there. As he had gone to La Bay, and might, had I followed him, have evaded me, I returned to the sloop, well tired ; " of nothing certain, but of labour lost."

Unable to obtain money where it was due, I ventured to ask the captain of the sloop, if he would favour me with the use of a couple of dollars, until I could meet with Captain Dale, assuring him that he was indebted to me four months' wages, at nine dollars per month. His prudence foiled me, telling me, in a good natured manner, that I was very welcome to remain on board, but, as to lending money, it was what he had never been used to, and he hoped he should never contract so bad a habit, or indulge in such a ruinous practice. Though necessity had

triumphed over the diffidence of my nature, emboldening me to solicit the favour, it did not prevent me feeling ashamed, as I asked it; nor was I so inured to denials of this nature, as not to feel infinitely more so, as he very reasonably refused me. Unavailing were my endeavours to gain an interview with the man, to serve whom I had refused an advantageous offer made by Mr. Hall. I have since thought, that he was at Mr. Carr's when I made inquiries after him, and that wishing to evade me, he concerted measures accordingly. Day after day passed away; night after night returned; but no money came to me. The sloop was now ready for another trip to St. Thomas's, and as I had a great aversion to running a risk of involving myself in debt by being ashore, I was under the necessity of making the trip with the James Campbell.

At this time, there were only four ships at Grenada for England, it being nearly the close of the season, viz. the *Africa*, of Bristol; the *Kitty*, of Liverpool, guineaman; the *Olive Branch*, and the *Harvey's Desire*, both of London. As it was Capt. Dale's intention to go to England, I knew he would return by one of the four; but as none of them, except the *Olive Branch*, were in a state to leave the island soon, and she not ready, I felt less regret in having to make the trip than I otherwise should have done. I trusted to Providence for a speedy

return, nor was I disappointed ; as we made Grenada in fourteen days from the time of leaving it.

On landing, I hied to Mr. Carr's, who informed me that Capt. Dale would be there on the following day ; I now put in practice a little artifice, that suggested itself to me on the passage to St. Thomas's. It was, to secure a reception at Mr. Carr's, though at the expense of truth ; I informed the host, that the captain, during my absence, had left word with a friend of his, that if he should happen to be either at Du Quesne, or La Bay, on my return to St. George's, he hoped I would remain in his lodgings, as he was not only very desirous of settling my account for wages, but as he had a very advantageous offer to make me. The unsuspecting Mr. Carr gave credit to the story, and paid every attention to my wants. I had address enough to introduce the loss of his brig, and spoke of Mr. Hebden as if I had known him all my life, which seemed to increase their attention to me ; and I felt sorry that the idea had not struck me before. On the following day he returned from Du Quesne to St. George's, but night was far advanced before the worthy Scarborough gentleman made his appearance at Mr. Carr's ; so that I had no knowledge of his arrival before the following morning, when, turning up my head, as I was going out at the back way, I perceived him looking out of the window of his lodging room. He was more polite than I expected, for, calling me

by the name I was best known by, he invited me up stairs, directing me how to find his room. On entering, he desired me to take a chair, for he was only partly dressed. Readily accepting the invitation, I recapitulated to him the unpleasant situation in which I had so long been, and still remained. He expressed some regret at my privations and disappointments; but, like the bulk of pitying friends, never once thought of removing the cause, though he was the only person who had a duty to perform towards me on the island; the performance of which I had a right to expect, but was miserably disappointed. Assuming an air of cheerfulness, he informed me that he purposed returning to England in the *Harvey's Desire*, and that he had procured me a passage in the same vessel. He then presented me with several woollen articles of wearing apparel, such as a great coat, stockings, &c.; observing, that I should find them particularly serviceable when we arrived in a colder climate. As I was much in want of such things, they were the more acceptable, and I thought he was going to befriend me; for, although my prospects of anticipated good had so often been blighted, I was easily imposed on by the semblance of good nature.

After some conversation on different subjects, I gave him to understand that my visit to him was for the purpose of receiving my wages. "Your wages!" said he, in seeming amazement; "what wages do

you want?" "Thirty-six dollars, Sir," said I. "When I was on the point of engaging with Mr. Basket, at St. Simon's, you proposed that my former wages, which were six dollars per month, should be advanced to nine, if I would reship with Captain Coates; besides enjoying the privilege, if I thought proper, of leaving the Neptune at any of the West India Islands. That privilege I claimed and exercised, as you know, and those wages, as they have been due some time, I am now come to claim." "The d—l you are!" swore he, colouring as he spoke. "Why, you know, you young scoundrel, you were nothing more than a passenger. Wages indeed! However, I'll make you a present of eight dollars" (throwing them upon his dressing table). "But, Sir, said I"—"Take them, and the clothes, and be off," said he, interrupting me, and colouring still higher, as his passion rose; "or by the living"—"Don't take your Maker's name in vain, Sir," said I, hastily, as I took the eight dollars from the table: "the remaining eight-and-twenty dollars that are due to me are not worth an oath," continued I, as I stooped down to take the bundle of clothes from the floor. Remonstrances were ineffectual, and I was obliged to submit to the authoritative tone of callous insensibility, dictated by avarice, and delivered with as much consummate arrogance, as ever disgraced the lips of supercilious man: though not without muttering discontent, as I was approach-

ing the door. "What is that you say, Sirrah?" inquired he, sternly. "That I may perhaps see you again in another place," returned I. "You can have a passage in the *Harvey's Desire*," observed he, rather more mildly. "Had you paid me honestly," I answered, "it would have been very acceptable, but I think I have been a passenger long enough!" So saying, I withdrew, leaving him to indulge in those feelings that must necessarily arise in a mind, self convicted of an unworthy and dishonest action.*

* About fourteen years after my return home, being on an excursion of pleasure at Scarborough, in company with a relation, and viewing the preparations then making for launching the ship *Lady Johnstone*, I fancied I recognized, in the person of a genteel middle-aged man, who came up to and entered into conversation with the master carpenter, near to whom we stood, Captain Dale. Hinting the same to my relation, who had often heard me speak of him; "'tis very unlikely," said he, "that you should see him here."—"Not more so," said I, "than that I should be here myself; but I will approach a little nearer to him, and survey him attentively." I did so, but could not trace the features that I once thought I should never forget, and returned disappointed, and rather chagrined; as my relation enjoyed a hearty laugh at what he conceived my mistake, particularly as I kept my eyes steadfastly fixed on him, as if doubting their decision. However, his deportment and actions favoured the idea that I had first formed, and I approached him a second time; gazed as attentively at him as decorum would allow, and returned as uncertain as before, affording further matter of merriment to my friend, who indulged in it pretty freely. An aged seafaring man coming up to where we were standing, "Pray, Sir," said I, "can you inform me

CHAPTER XV.

The Author engages on board a Droger, for a trip for a few days round Grenada—Meets with an old acquaintance, the black boy Bristol—Also a Yorkshireman, from the neighbourhood of Leeds, who is generous to him—Save the Droger's Boat, at the hazard of his life—Receives his Wages, and a handsome reward—Visits the old Nurse at the Hospital—Her Hypocrisy—Funeral of a Sailor—Engages in the Ship Africa, bound for London.

WITH less than a fourth part of my wages in my pocket, disappointment in my face, and the gift of clothes under my arm, I visited a person with whom I was on friendly terms, when at Grenada before; left the bundle at his house; and repaired to the sloop for my trunk. When I was about to bring it

who that gentleman is who is in close conversation with the master carpenter?"—"His name is Sedgefield Dale," answered the man, bluntly. "He is a married man, and has a family in Scarborough; was formerly in the West India trade, and had ships of his own in that employ, but was unfortunate, and lost a deal of money." I thanked him for the information, felt satisfied, and asked my companion what he thought of my judgment now? laughing at him, in my turn. In the course of the day, I made further inquiries respecting my late employer, particularly of Mr. Henderson, who at that time kept a billiard-room on the cliff: he knew Capt. Dale well, and said that he frequently played a game or two at his house, in the early part of the day. Desirous of an

away, the captain expressed a hope that I had succeeded in getting my wages ; but, when I informed him how scurvily Captain Dale had behaved, he declared that, had he thought him capable of acting so vile a part, he would not have suffered him to come on board, and hoped I should fall in with a

interview, I intimated my wish to Mr. Henderson, leaving my address with him, as he promised to favour me with an intimation of Captain Dale's first visit to the billiard-room. Early the next morning the desired information arrived ; I was then breakfasting, but lost no time in repairing to the Billiard-room ; however, on my arrival there, he had gone away, which reminded me strongly of the trips I had taken from Grenada to Du Quesne, in order to meet with the same gentleman. From the distance he had proceeded, I saw no possibility of overtaking him, except by making a cut down a steep part of the cliff ; that cut I made, though not without difficulty. It was then nearly low-water, and he was walking at a gentle pace within a short distance of its receding verge. As I drew near to him, I got between him and the water, recovered my wind a little, and gradually edged towards him. " Good morning, Sir," said I, as I came up to him. He turned towards me, moved politely, assuring me I had the advantage of him, as he did not recollect having ever seen me before. " You have, Sir," said I, " many times, both in America and the West Indies." I paused, but he could not recollect me. I mentioned the brig Neptune ; he eyed me from head to foot, still declaring his ignorance of me. " Do you remember a young man of the name of Butterworth," resumed I, who engaged with Capt. Coates at Charleston, and left the brig at St. Croix ?"—" Such a name does not live with me," was his answer. The more I parleyed with him, the firmer was my conviction of his being the man I supposed him to be ; his features becoming more familiar to me

better birth, and a more honest captain. I thanked him for his good wishes ; got my trunk ashore to my friend's house, from whence I had it conveyed to a rum store, in the Canash, formerly kept by Mr. Ryan, but who had just before left the West Indies for Ireland.

every moment. " Fourteen years may have made a wonderful alteration in me," said I. " As you neither remember my person nor my real name, have you any recollection of the boy Darby, Sir ?"—" Yes, yes," he replied, hastily ; " I knew Darby very well."—" Then, Sir," said I, " I am he that was that boy ;" moving politely to him. " Indeed !" exclaimed he, in the utmost astonishment ; at the same time his eyes filling with tears, which, acting as it were by sympathy, induced the like in mine. Numerous were the questions he asked ; mostly relating to domestic affairs, and my situation in life ; expressing the greatest satisfaction at my altered appearance, and the prospect I had of future competency. As I finished each sentence, he replied, " God bless me ! Most astonishing !" and such like expressions. After answering his questions, I ventured to inquire after his brother-in-law, Hebdon. It was enough ! invectives superseded inquiry ; inveterate malignity glowed in his face, increasing its colour to a deep red. Rage dissipated reflection's tears, and he desired I would not mention the miscreant's name any more. Before we parted, he gave me a South Carolina invitation to dine with him, very conveniently forgetting to appoint either time or place. When I told him my stay in Scarborough would be about three weeks, he observed that many opportunities in that time would offer themselves to spend a few hours together. After several days' stay, without meeting with him, I was informed, by a resident of the town, that he neglected his family, seldom spending any time amongst them, preferring the company of one or two meretricious ladies, who resided at the

As I now found myself without the aid of Dutch John, to raise spirits, or his gimlet, to do it myself, I exchanged one of my dollars to pay for some rum, with which I was striving to smother reflection, when in came a person, who wanted two hands to engage

village of Scalby, in the neighbourhood ; who found an interest in being on an establishment similar to Miss King, whom he had formerly abandoned. By this account, I was convinced that, though he appeared much more genteel, yet he was the same unprincipled man as ever. The next time I saw the slippery gentleman was at Donner's billiard-room, that gentleman coming in with him. Captain Dale retired in a few minutes, without renewing his invitation. Policy might dictate shyness, as doubtless he would anticipate questions that might be put to me by Mrs. Dale, respecting her brother John Hebden, had he introduced me to his family ; questions that would have demanded answers highly injurious to himself, which he was wise enough not to risk ; and I had no further conversation with him. The following season I paid another visit to Scarborough, and met with Captain Dale, who very politely gave me his hand, but no invitation to dine with him. As I felt desirous of hinting to him his former conduct to me, I proposed taking a glass with him, but he, "cautious ever," said he was much engaged, but would do himself that pleasure the first opportunity. Convinced that he was at his old trick of shuffling, I gave up the idea of bringing him to a sense of his reprehensible conduct, particularly as I subsequently learned from his son, that his behaviour at home was disgraceful in the extreme. This information was frankly communicated to me in consequence of the account I gave to young Dale, of his father's treatment of myself and his uncle, Hebden, in the West Indies, &c. &c.—Captain Dale became a bailiff of Scarborough several years prior to his demise, during which time I frequently saw him, but he always avoided me.

in a droger, a vessel employed to go round the island, collecting its produce and other goods, to be shipt for England. Anxious to improve my small capital, but still unwilling to lose an opportunity of returning to England, I inquired the probable length of time it would require to perform the trip. On learning that a week, or at most ten days, would bring us back to the Canash, I gladly embraced the offer, along with another young man, the wages being proportioned to nine dollars per month. The produce the droger was going to collect, was for the Africa, of Bristol, bound to London.

Going down to Mr. Thornton's wharf, where the droger lay, I recognized on the wharf, in the person of a young negro in livery, the boy Bristol, who acted as interpreter on board the Hudibras, and who was to have been sent by Captain Evans to Dr. Jolly's mother, at Bristol. How he came to be sold as a slave, was to me a mystery; a knowledge of Captain Evans raised in my mind a surmise, that he might have reported Bristol dead, amongst the revolvers, or such as fell victims to the dysentery, of which action he was every way capable. Bristol no sooner saw me, than he sprang up to me, with pleasure beaming in his eyes, expressive of gladness at seeing one whom he remembered at some former time. While I, in order to try how he would make himself known, pretended never to have seen him before. He eagerly grasped my hand, seizing it

like that of a friend whom he had long lost: I pushed him from me, inquiring who he was, and what he wanted? When he, evidently hurt by my coolness, asked, "What! you no know Bristol?" "No!" I answered, rather gruffly. "No!" said he, much agitated. "What matter you no know Bristol?" "What Bristol?" said I, still appearing shy. "Bristol come in Captain Evans' ship: you come in Captain Evans' ship!" he replied, smilingly, as if he expected such information awakening recollection in me. Memory was still feigned absent, and the poor fellow capered and ran about me almost frantic. He next mentioned the slaves revolting; named the Eboes in particular; made the most intelligible signs he could, representing the struggle between our hands and his countrymen, to see who should possess him, when we drew him up out of the hatchway of the *Hudibras*. At the word *Hudibras*, I smiled, which he observed, and again seized my hand, saying, "Me Bristol." "Ah! Bristol," said I, "how are you? yes I remember you well, and hope you have got a good master." The boy was overjoyed when he found that I knew him, and informed me, that his master and mistress, together with a negro girl, who came along with the *Hudibras*, were going passengers in the droger to Carinacon, one of the Grandillas, near Grenada. After some little conversation with Bristol, his master and mistress, accompanied by Mr. Nicholson, master

of the droger, came up to us, followed by the negro girl, who no sooner saw me than she came to me in the same manner as Bristol had done ; but I had no recollection of her. She informed her master and mistress, that I came from Africa in the same ship with her and Bristol : both expressed a desire to have a little conversation with me, but were prevented, from my being engaged in getting the vessel out of the Canash.

Having effected this, we proceeded to a plantation, near Guave, where we took in a few hogsheads of sugar, and where I met with an adventure, as satisfactory as it was unexpected. The person who superintended the shipping of the sugar recognized me, by my speech, to be a Yorkshireman ; and without formal ceremony, asked me from what part of the county I came ? I, as unceremoniously answered, Leeds, in the West Riding. He seemed lost in astonishment : “ we are neighbours, then,” replied he, as soon as surprise allowed him to speak. “ I come from Horsforth,” continued he, “ which you know is only five miles from Leeds.” When I told him my name, it was very familiar to him, as he knew my family well ; though I had not any knowledge of him prior to this interview. But such was the respect he had for the county that gave him birth, that he shewed me a kindness because I came therefrom. “ If you had any thing to put a stone or two of sugar in,” said he, “ it is at your service ;

it might be useful before you get to Leeds: I am sorry that I have no bag to let you have along with you, as you might have filled it, and should have been as welcome as the flowers in May, as they say at Horsforth." Yorkshiremen are generally said to be troubled with after-thought; but, on the present occasion, the adage was verified, "Necessity is the mother of invention." An excellent substitute for a bag presented itself in my shirt; and, as I was not quite so nice in stomach as when I left home, off came shirt and handkerchief too, into which my countryman stowed between thirty and forty pounds weight; regretting that I had not a wool-sack, or a Yorkshire blanket. A fine hint, thought I, at the idea of converting a shirt (stript off the back of its owner) into a bag, to contain his free-will offering. But, as I had often heard the old proverb, "All is fish that comes to the net," I thought, in the present instance, any thing should serve for a net that would catch the fish. I could only thank my countryman for his present, which I soon got on board; and then assisted in getting in the hogsheads, which done, we shook hands with the fervency of real friendship, though strangers. The droger immediately left the place, for others, where we continued taking in goods for the Africa.

When we arrived at that part of the island near Cariuacoa, we bore away for that small island, which we soon gained, anchoring in a fine open bay.

The boat that we had along with us, towed at the stern, was brought alongside of the droger, into which got the master and mistress of Bristol, with that youth and the negro girl, and were soon put ashore. The gentleman requested Mr. Nicholson to remain at Cariuacoa a short time, as he intended making him a small present, for the politeness shewn them ; and, if ever man deserved a token of respect, that man was Mr. Nicholson, whose suavity of temper, and studiousness to please, had made him a favourite with all the colonists of respectability ; each honouring the principle by which he was actuated : and, if any thing could have induced me to stop in this part of the world, it would have been the hope of being employed in the service of such a master. As I had anticipated enjoyment in the conversation of Bristol's master, I felt the most poignant regret at beholding him and his lady sick the whole of the passage, thereby blighting my hopes ; as I was very desirous to know how Bristol had been made a slave, contrary to the express desire of Mr. Jolly, surgeon of the Preston, who designed him to enjoy the indescribable sweets of liberty, in the land of freedom, England. In less than an hour from the passengers' landing, a negro, with his master's compliments, waited on Mr. Nicholson with a young pig and a couple of fine fowls ; which were as gratefully received, as well merited.

Immediately after, we left Cariuacoa for Grenada ;

touching at several places on that island, for hogs-heads of sugar, till we had completed our cargo; when we bore away with it, for St. George's, to ship it on board the *Africa*. We had a contrary wind, causing us to beat. The boat that we had with us belonged to the Messrs. Baileys, of London; it having been left at St. George's, and being too large to be taken on board the droger, was towed at its stern. The towing rope, chafed by the sudden jerks to which it was exposed every time the vessel was put about, parted; of course, the boat was adrift, causing the greatest anxiety in Mr. Nicholson for its safety, the wind blowing fresh, and the duskiess of evening gaining on the horizon. The droger was instantly put about, for the purpose of getting to the weather side of the boat, and dropping down to it under easy sail. Mr. Nicholson took the helm, and steered right to the object of his solicitude, having previously ordered one of the negro sailors to leap into it; myself and others having ropes ready to throw into the boat, for the negro to catch hold of, in order to check it, and bring it up alongside of the droger. The negro appointed to leap into the boat, as soon as we came up with it, like Quashee and Cato on a former occasion, refused; asking, why neither Kennedy (the name of the young man engaged along with me at the rum-store) nor I was ordered to risk our lives, as we were receiving more wages than he or any of the negroes on board?

Anger got the better of Mr. Nicholson's mildness ; still, he durst not punish the disobedient negro, who, he perceived, as we passed the boat, had not made the attempt ; as she was then empty. Again we had to get to windward of her, which we effected, coming close to her ; all the negro sailors, four in number, had received orders to make an attempt to board her, but Mr. Nicholson might as well have ordered the boat to board the droger. All four held a coil of rope in their hands, to throw into the boat, but not one would attempt to throw himself in. Again we passed the boat—all remained on board the sloop—not one volunteered his services, to oblige so kind a master : not one, that was ordered, obeyed the mandate of his employer ; who now, finding himself neglected, stormed like one beside himself, but stormed in vain ! It was now nearly dark, and the object of our attention was, for some time, lost to our view ; Mr. Nicholson again took the helm : all were on the look out, two of the negroes declaring that they would get into the boat, should we again come up with it. An opportunity soon presented itself ; the boat was descried right a-head, within fifteen fathoms of the droger. I instantly called out to the worthy Mr. Nicholson, whose anger was rather appeased : the peak of the mainsail was let drop ; I requested the two negroes to prepare for the attempt, as we were within ten yards of the boat : they stared at each other, but neither of them

prepared. It was soon alongside of us, but not sufficiently near for any one to leap into it. Concluding in my mind that, if we now missed it, we might never see it again, as darkness still advanced, and all hope of the negroes trying to secure it having vanished, without saying a word to any one, I slipt off my shirt and hat, and into the water I jumped, as far as possible. The sea was much agitated; the boat was rolling about; when, as Providence ordained it (let sceptics carp at the idea, if they choose), just as I began to despair of getting into it, from the circumstance of her drifting as fast as I could swim, a swell of the sea, on which I rose like a coot, pitched me very conveniently into her; for which I felt grateful to heaven, convinced that its providential care had placed me there.

Though not more than a minute clapsed between my leaping from the droger and being cast into the boat, the ropes in the hands of the negroes were rendered useless, by their having passed me; of course, I could not reach them. With a small biscuit-barrel, I threw out the water which the boat had shipt, and kept it tolerably clear: however, I could not keep myself dry, for after knocking about, as I judged, half an hour, a heavy squall came on; rain fell in torrents; the wind increased, which, with the rain, caused me to feel a shivering cold. Possessed of a cotton shawl, I tied the ends of it round my neck; it covered my shoulders like a

mantle, and kept off in some degree the intensity of the cold. I had now time for reflection. All was dark. I could neither hear nor see any thing of the droger: destitute of an oar, I resorted to the same means that I had done in the lighter; tore up by force a piece of the inside bottom-board, enabling myself with it to keep her head to sea, thereby preventing her shipping so much water, and keeping her easier. As I had, in Africa, been similarly situated, where there appeared little or no chance of being picked up, except by the negroes, who might have murdered me and kept the boat, I took courage, particularly on reflecting, that I could not be more than four miles from the Grampuses, small rocks near Salines point, entering into St. George's bay; consoling myself with the probability of being taken up by some vessel, as there were many of different nations and descriptions daily passing. In case of being taken up by either French, Spanish, or Dutch vessel, and taken to any of the islands of those respective nations, I knew the boat of the Baileys was worth ten times as much as the property that I had on board the droger; I therefore regretted my situation the less, though to some it might have appeared frightful indeed.

Nearly benumbed with cold, I was clapping my hands against my sides, crossing my arms as I gave the motion, to generate heat; when I heard a shouting noise to windward of me. I answered the shout,

and soon had the satisfaction of seeing the droger bearing gently down upon me. As soon as I was alongside of her, a rope was thrown to me, which catching, I took a turn round the forethought, not having time to pass it through the ring, used for that purpose; till the boat was hauled up to the stern, where I made it fast, previous to being assisted into the vessel by Mr. Nicholson, the cold having nearly deprived me of the proper use of my limbs. With that generosity that peculiarly marked the conduct of Mr. Nicholson, he furnished me with a shirt out of his own wardrobe, pressing me to retire to his cot or birth; into which I had scarcely crept, when he entered the cabin, bringing me some warm rum and water, desiring me to make free with it; at the same time seating himself beside me, till I drank it. During the interval, he informed me that he should have fallen in with me much sooner, but for an accident, occasioned by putting the vessel about; the mainboom swinging, or going over, caught the top of the companion, and was carried away. He said, they had shewn a light, which, however, I did not perceive till we were very near each other: the only use I could have made of it, had I seen it, would have been the cheering up of my spirits, as I could not direct my course at pleasure, nor make any progress with the boat. Mr. Nicholson's local knowledge must have been great, or he could not have found me so readily in the dark, after an absence of four hours.

Business demanding him upon deck, he left me in quiet possession of his cot, indulging me in its use till morning; at which time, awaking and going upon deck, I was most agreeably surprised to find the droger moored at Mr. Thornton's wharf, in the Canash, where I first went on board. The sun was shining with great power; the face of nature looked beautiful, contrasted with its gloom a short time before. Labour no longer oppressed the slave. No noise was heard, except that of the solitary and inharmonious bell, announcing the arrival of the time for public worship: it was the slave's jubilee, Sunday. After being almost starved, and driven up and down for the space of four hours, at the mercy of a most boisterous wind, nearly naked; to find myself in a shirt of the finest texture, white as the mountain snow, comparatively speaking; in the warmth of a beautiful morning, in tranquil security; excited in my mind sensations pleasurable beyond the efforts of my pen to describe.

The following morning, we hauled alongside the Africa, Captain Smith, a native of Lancaster; but, as another droger had to discharge her cargo into that ship before our turn came, Kennedy proposed spending the interval ashore, while I preferred going on board the Africa, with the intention of volunteering my services in any way that might be useful. As I remained on board the whole of the day, I learned that the people employed in the ship did

not belong to her, but were temporarily hired ; as they objected at that time to ship by the month, hoping to make better out by what is called the run ; that is, a certain sum for the trip ; risking the length of time employed in the performance of it. As soon as I learned their determination, I formed mine on the same footing, desirous of making a little more of my time than I had hitherto done. The following morning, we commenced removing our cargo into the Africa ; when Captain Smith asked me if I was going to England ? “ I hope so, Sir,” answered I, pleased with his interrogatory. “ Have you any objection to return with me ? ” was the second question put to me. “ Not the least, Sir,” said I, better pleased still. From some observations he made, I found that Mr. Nicholson and he had conversed together about me, to my advantage ; this I learned in the cabin, as he was treating me with some good stiff grog : when regaled, I thanked him for his kindness, and returned to the droger, cheerful in the prospect of once more visiting my native country, and enjoying the company of those to whose counsel I had turned a deaf ear. Anxious to expedite the freighting of the Africa, I worked with double diligence. Kennedy, though not influenced by the same motive, put his shoulder to the wheel ; and we gained credit for our exertions, as we were thereby enabled to get the whole of our cargo on board Captain Smith’s ship, before the sun kissed

with his setting rays the distant waters of the emerald-coloured ocean.

Unlike Captains Evans and Dale, Mr. Nicholson, on the following day, gave Kennedy and myself a note for three dollars each, as wages, to be paid by Mr. Thornton. On putting them into our hands, he advised me to ship with Captain Smith, assuring me that he had a particular desire for me to sail with that gentleman. A little desultory conversation finished, we waited on Mr. Thornton, whom we found at the desk in his counting-house, presented the note, and received the full amount of our demands, paid without the least hesitation. On laying down the six dollars, Mr. Thornton inquired which of us it was that had saved the boat of the Baileys, at the risk of his life? "It was I, Sir," said I; as Kennedy did not offer to answer the question. "You behaved like a worthy man, and a good sailor," returned Mr. Thornton, laying down five dollars on his desk; "here is a small present for you," said the patron of my friend Mr. Aspinall, "as an acknowledgment of the high estimation I have of an honourable action, especially when performed by one in humble life." He then took up the five dollars, and presented them to me, which I scarcely knew how to take, though I was much in need of them; satisfied with the compliment he was pleased to pay me; for I held the eulogy of a worthy man in more esteem, than the perishable, though

valuable, riches of the world: not forgetting, however, the service they might render me, before I reached the town that gave me birth. As we were leaving the counting-house, its owner called me back, and said, I might, if I thought proper, give something to my comrade, who was well satisfied with a little cold punch and a bottle of porter, drunk at the rum-store kept by a Mr. Grant; who was also a letterpress-printer, and employed a negro as a pressman. While refreshing ourselves, I learned more of the nature of the run; and, the more I heard of it, the better I liked the scheme: concluding that, could the point be carried, I might make sure of returning to my friends in tolerable good trim.

Bearing in mind, that "enough is as good as a feast," I left Kennedy at the store; taking my luggage to a lodging-house; whence I repaired to the hospital, in order to see the old nurse, against whose hypocrisy I was on my guard, having witnessed it in so many glaring instances, when her next door neighbour, as she used to call me, when in a good humour. Rigging myself out as well as my wardrobe would allow, and making myself clean, I went directly to the green-cloth-partitioned ward, as she was seldom any where else, except during the time of making rice gruel or broth for the patients. As soon as she heard my voice, in the inquiry I made after her, of some of the sick inmates, she ran to

meet me, exclaiming, in seeming transport of surprise, "Ah, Butterwood! my boy, and is that yourself?"—"Except I have been changed very lately, I believe, nurse, it is myself," answered I, rather doubtingly. This drew a smile from some of the invalids. "And have you called to see your old nurse, my boy, Butterwood?"—"If I may believe my senses, I have," said I, "though when I was almost frightened to death by the Indians, I never thought of seeing —." "The holy cross preserve us!" said she, interrupting me. "Musha, good luck to you, and did you think of your old nurse, when death stared you in the face? Many a time and oft, Butterwood, have I talked about you to these people; praised your good nature, and wished for an opportunity to befriend you, so I have! You remember poor Tom Minikin, your countryman—the Virgin bless him!—he, poor boy, is dead! Come wid me, Butterwood, and I will shew you his clothes!" The suddenness of the information of an acquaintance's death, struck a pang to my heart! and, on viewing my countryman's clothes, I was not ashamed to drop a tear of commiseration at the fate of a youth, who, like myself, had the misfortune to visit Africa in the Slave Trade, and who, like me too, had been paid off at Grenada; where, after filling a confidential situation some time, he fell a victim to a violent hemorrhage. Thomas Minikin was from Rilston, in Craven, Yorkshire; greatly respected by all who

knew him; even the old nurse spoke highly of him, though she had no further chance of benefiting by him.

Suspecting that her avowal of a desire to befriend me was what she, in another person, would call blarney, and wishing to try the extent of her friendship, I related to her a melancholy tale, of having suffered shipwreck, and lost all the little property I had in the world—money, clothes, and chest: that, though I appeared well rigged, it was at the expense of a messmate; and as I knew her regard for me, I had taken the liberty of waiting on her, that she might have the pleasure of relieving my distress. The fate of Minikin had impressed an air of solemnity on my face, that wonderfully assisted the imposition, and detected the old lady's hypocrisy; who now began to look glum, hemmed and coughed, like one foiled in her expectation. Perceiving this, I heightened the colouring of the tragic scene, by enumerating the disasters to which the mariner is hourly subject. It had the desired effect, and stript off the mask of dissimulation. She became impatient, said she was very sorry for me, prayed God to help me, for that she could not, and was moving off, without asking me to taste a drop of the crater, or giving me an invitation to call again! "Don't hurry yourself, Nurse," said I. "A nurse is but a nurse, you know, Butterwood," she replied, "and I have wasted a dale of precious time wid you!"

Possessing fourteen dollars, principally in half dollars, which I had equally divided between the pockets of my trowsers, I produced such music, by introducing my hands therein, and jingling the silver, as arrested the quick ears of the nurse, who veered about with greater ease than any vane. Pleasure twinkled in her eyes, as she listened to the notes, and she would willingly have bothered me with more blarney, and have wasted more precious time with me, had I not stopt her voluble tongue, by telling her that the story of the shipwreck was a fabrication, to try how far her profession of respect was sincere: that now she had convinced me that avarice was the mainspring of her actions, and that, if I had not had the price of a dinner in the world, she was not the person to bestow one on me. “Did you think me in earnest, Butterwood?” said the whining hypocrite; and would have palavered long enough, if I had not bade her good day, advising her in future to be what she wished to be thought, sincere; assuring her that, had her conduct corresponded with her profession of esteem, I should have made her a handsome present. She seemed confused, as I bade her good day a second time, and doubtless would feel chagrined at having, by avarice, defeated her own projects. Leaving the hospital, I spent the remainder of the day, and the night, at my own lodgings, reflecting on the fate of Tom Minikin, and the double-facedness of the nurse.

In the morning, going to the Canash, Mr. Grant, who was standing at the door of his rum-store, hailed me. I brought up; when he informed me that an inmate had died the evening before, and he hoped I would stop, and assist in bearing him to his last home. Conceiving it a duty we owe to each other, I readily consented, and was immediately introduced to a number of sailors in a back room, engaged on the same business, amongst whom was Kennedy, my late messmate. In the same room was the deceased, in a very rough-made shell, unornamented, and without handles; over which was thrown a ship's ensign, to serve as a pall, together with some ropes to lower the corpse into the grave. On a table stood plenty of bread and cheese, as well as porter and cold punch, to which all were welcome; and some made too free, becoming inebriated before we left the store, to pursue the route to the burying-ground, which joined that of the negroes, near to a rivulet, at the opposite end of St. George's bay to the Canash.

Mr. Grant's steward had the marking out of the route, who, to avoid going through the streets and along the bay, directed it towards Mount Surat; thence turning to the left, on a footpath leading to the banks of the rivulet, near the ground where our toil was to terminate; for a toilsome journey it was, caused by the mismanagement of the steward, in directing us to avoid the low roads. Twelve was

the number of sailors who left the Canash, four of whom hoisted the corpse upon their shoulders; the other eight were meant to change, and thereby relieve each other alternately. Never was a more motley group seen: no mourner; and but few anxious to preserve that decency and decorum, observed at the funerals of all ranks of people in England. The road was narrow, bad, and full of loose stones; in many places the sides were full of brush-wood, rendering the passage very difficult, and demanding a change of carriers every few yards; for the unevenness of the road, and the sharp rough edges of the coffin, drew blood pretty freely from our shoulders, shewing itself through our shirts. As I had never witnessed the levity of a marriage at a procession to the grave, I was much shocked on the present occasion: several refused going on, using the most unbecoming language; nor could they be prevailed on to change situations with those who happened to be bearing the corpse; but down it must come to the ground, although there were no handles on the shell to take hold of. Sometimes it was on one end, sometimes on the other, and sometimes tumbled down flat! Such another scene took place as was exhibited in Mr. M'Quin's garden, at Sapello Island; rendered more disgraceful by the circumstance that called us together. Intoxication manifested itself in those who refused to proceed, and they wished to leave the corpse, or to procure

a spade, dig a grave, and inter it where we were resting. Again the coffin was raised upon the shoulders, when one, lost to all sense of shame, vociferated—"D—n your eyes, carry poor Kelly upright! he and I have cracked many a bottle together! By J—s, a brighter boy never honoured St. Patrick's day!" and many other expressions equally irreverent. Kennedy was termed a swaddler (a Methodist), for checking their profaneness. Our numbers, when we reached the burying-ground, were only six: two negroes were there waiting, who informed us that the parson and clerk had left the place more than an hour before; therefore, the corpse was committed to the ground, without the funeral rite being performed. On our return, we overtook the intoxicated loiterers, who were very desirous of carrying to Mr. Grant's the ropes and ensign; but the other six, discerning their motive, refused to surrender them up; they then left us, boasting that they would be at the store first; but in this they were foiled, for, as I knew a much nearer road, by crossing over the hospital hill, our six steered that way, and reached Mr. Grant's before the others, who, when they arrived, were indignantly turned out of the house, by its owner, for their disgraceful behaviour, which he had learned from us, on inquiring the reason of some of our shoulders bleeding. Politely ushering us into the room that we occupied previous to leaving the

house, he treated us with the best it afforded, in the greatest profusion.

Knowing that Capt. Smith wished to engage me, and learning that the *Africa* would not sail in less than four days; knowing also, that if the other hands were engaged by the run, I should be allowed the same advantage; the better to avoid their company ashore, and escape the importunities of the captain, I took an excursion into the country, to gratify curiosity in seeing the whole process of making sugar, and distilling rum. Returning to St. George's on the third day, my fears surpassed, if possible, my astonishment, to find that the *Kitty* was the only ship in the Canash, the *Olive Branch* and the *Africa* having left! I now regretted that curiosity had prompted me to wander into the country, to learn the art of sugar-making, and wished I had engaged with Capt. Smith, instead of having my attention engaged in the distillation of ardent spirits. I was now quite spiritless, and began to think that my destiny was sealed, and that the demon of disappointment was determined to shed its malign influence on my devoted head.

While absorbed in reflections of a sombre cast, my eyes caught a boat at Mr. Thornton's wharf; off I ran to the place, and eagerly inquired to what ship it belonged? "The *Africa*," answered the men, who were taking in some barrels of biscuits, and who informed me that she had brought up in

the bay, and that the Olive Branch had put off to sea. Just at that moment, up came Mr. Thornton, of whom I asked if he could inform me whether the Africa had got her complement of hands? "Complement, or not, young man," said he, "I will engage you shall have a situation." The clouds that overcast my mind began to break, knowing him to be a man of integrity, as well as of great influence. After answering numerous questions, I found that he was well acquainted with the revolt of the slaves, whom he understood, he said, to be so near carrying their point, that the boat of the Hudibras was actually hoisted out, and held in a state of readiness for more than an hour, every moment expecting we should have to leave the ship, as Captain Evans paced the deck, with a broken cutlass in one hand, and an old pistol in the other. I supposed this information had been imparted by either Capt. Evans, or Mr. Aspinall, with whose unpleasant fracas he was well acquainted, as he noticed it to me, previous to desiring me to make his respects to Captain Smith, if he objected to engaging me, and to say, that he hoped the captain would give me an engagement on his account. The boat was now ready to put off to the Africa; Mr. Thornton desired the men to take me on board; and they cheerfully acquiesced. I thanked him for his recommendation; he bade me farewell; and we put off for the Africa, alongside of which we had no sooner arrived, than Capt. Smith,

on seeing me, expressed satisfaction, and welcomed me on board, inquiring my reason for not coming sooner? I told him the truth, but not the whole truth; saying, I had been in the country, and did not expect she would sail so soon; carefully avoiding to mention the motive of my ramble—the escaping his importunities, and the hope of a run; though I soon learned that the hands had shipt for forty shillings per month.

From the singular manner in which I was put on board, I had neither clothes nor sea stock with me; I informed the captain of the circumstance, from whom I learned, that we should all have to go ashore again, to sign articles for the passage. The information completely dissipated the gloom, on which Mr. Thornton's assurance had previously shed a ray of hope. Leaving Captain Smith, I joined my new messmates, whom I found employed in making reef-points for the topsails, which were down: I fell to work among the rest, and, "as many hands make light work," the topsails were replaced in a short time, and all made ready for sea.

In the afternoon of the same day, accompanied by our captain, we all went ashore, to sign articles at Mr. Thornton's, affording me another opportunity of seeing that much-respected gentleman, whom I venerated for advocating the cause of justice, in the case of Mr. Aspinall; and whom I particularly regarded as my friend in the present crisis. Bearing

in mind the necessary injunctions, to be on board by eight o'clock p. m. on leaving Mr. Thornton's I directed my course to a Spanish launch, on board of which vessel I purchased two parrots, and removed them to my lodgings. After purchasing four gallons of rum, and a few necessary articles (sugar I had plenty), I fell in with Capt. Smith and our boatswain, rather before I had intended leaving St. George's; the former, inquiring if I was going on board, and being informed that my clothes, &c. were still at my lodgings, ordered the latter to accompany me thither, and assist me with my chest, &c. to the wharf. Thankful for the favour, I went cheerfully along with the boatswain, and soon had my whole property removed to the Africa.

I found in the ship a gentleman and his servant, a negro; and concluding, from the tattoo marks on the face of the black, that he was from Old Calabar, I asked him, in the language of that country, if he would shake hands with me? The astonished boy eagerly extended his right hand towards me, inquiring if I had been in his country? "I have," said I, in his own language, which pleased him much, and off he set to impart the intelligence to his master, who immediately came up to me, and asked to what ship I belonged, when at Old Calabar? On learning that it was the *Hudibras*, he expressed an earnest desire to be informed of the particulars of the revolt, &c. which I subsequently detailed to him, on our

passage ; as, in fine weather, when I was at the helm, he would frequently bring his chair, place it near to me, and converse in the most familiar manner, generally calling me his countryman, perhaps because nearly all the other men before the mast were natives of Ireland. He informed me that his name was Cooper, late captain of the *Highfield*, slave ship, of Liverpool, which had been unfortunately destroyed by fire, on the Coast of Africa. The name of the place where the conflagration happened has escaped my memory ; but his kindness to me on the passage, I trust, never will. He was generous in the extreme.

CHAPTER XVI.

The Africa leaves Grenada for England—Loss of the Foretopmast, owing to the Captain's obstinacy—Put into St. Croix to repair—Several of the Crew discovered to be mere Landmen—Their idleness cured by the Captain—Extreme cruelty of Captain Smith—Brutal punishment of two of the Crew—The Mainmast struck by Lightning—Projected Mutiny—Discovered—The Africa arrives at London—Captain Smith tried for cruelty, and acquitted—Knavery of the Watchmen at the Customhouse—Crew paid off—Villany of the Boatswain—The Proprietors of the Africa wish to retain the Author in their service, but he resolves on returning home—Parts with Captain Smith and his Messmates—Goes by water to Selby—Is kindly received by his Relations in Leeds—Settles assiduously to business—Learns the Art of Engraving—Conclusion.

ON the 10th of August, 1788, we got under way ; under a light breeze, frequently veering about the whole of the first three days : on the fourth, a stiff gale sprang up, increasing about meridian. Four o'clock p.m. placed me at the helm : the topgallant-sails were taken in. At five, Captain Smith came to me, expressing satisfaction at the wind, which had increased rapidly, and was still increasing ; but not much sea. We went at a great rate, the ship maintaining as steady a motion as if in a calm. Under the circumstances in which we were then placed, the topsails ought to have been close reefed, but Capt.

Smith being informed that the foretopmast was sprung just above the cap, injudiciously determined to try it, frequently saying the foretopmast as well as the maintopmast bent like whalebone whips. But, precisely at six p. m. he was convinced of his folly ; the foretopmast breaking off short, about two feet above the cap. Its end going right through the foresail, all the other head sails became useless in a moment. Happily, no one received the least injury, though this masterpiece of folly might have cost the lives of many, and proved the forerunner of very unpleasant circumstances. My two hours being expired, I was removed from the helm, not relieved, for I was sent to a much more laborious and unpleasant job. For some time the vessel proved unmanageable. One of the heaviest showers of rain I had ever been exposed to began to fall, or rather to pour down. The main and mizen topsails were handed, and the ship began to right again. Our next task was to get on board the upper part of the foretopmast, topgallantmast-yard and rigging, which were towing in the water. The undertaking was an unpleasant one, and caused many of our hands to skulk ; deserting their posts, and shamming a sickness, they went down below, affording Capt. Smith a fine specimen of their usefulness in the hour of danger, and convincing him, at the same time, how grossly he had been imposed on, by their shipping

as seamen—an imposition, of which he never lost sight during the passage.

Nearly the whole of the night was taken up in getting the wreck, &c. into the ship: the sea was running high, and the vessel shipt a very considerable quantity of water. The moon was up, but was much obscured by clouds, and the dense body of rain that continued to fall; the wind blew a hurricane. The remaining topmasts were struck: the mainsail handed, and the vessel laid to, under her reef mizen, the whole of the succeeding day and night. The unpardonable obstinacy of our captain was the cause of all our present toil and unpleasantness. Never was a vessel more uneasy in the water, every sea breaking right over her. Many bags of cotton were washed overboard. The boat, in which were several monkeys and parrots, was staved, and its whole contents, by one overwhelming wave, swept clear away. My two parrots escaped; being along with one of the captain's, on the quarter-deck. In the following afternoon, the wind abated, the rain fell more gently, and the whole face of visible nature assumed a brighter appearance. We now bent a fresh foresail, after which the ship was put under close reefed courses.

At an early hour of the night, the moon shining with great lustre, we perceived land under our larboard bow; but did not know what land it was, not

having had an opportunity of taking an observation during the late storm, or seeing any other land, by which this might have been known. Before the sun had reached meridian on the following day, we had land right a-head, terminating on our left. The wind was hushed, but the sea was tremendous; its big waves swelling beyond description, enough to appal the hearts of the stoutest. The reefs were shaken out of our courses: the maintopsail set, and we neared the land fast; but, when within a league thereof, we experienced a dead calm, though but of short continuance, succeeded by a light breeze, enabling us to get well in shore, approaching which we descried a large row boat, well manned, making towards us. When near enough, they hailed us, inquiring in English if we wanted piloting in? Capt. Smith asked what was the name of the island? but did not receive any answer. Next, what they would pilot us in for? Seventy dollars was the answer. "A very modest charge, 'pon my soul!" said our captain, and immediately offered them forty; they pretended to take umbrage, pulling off to a considerable distance, though keeping abreast of us, either to be in smoother water, or to consult together on the propriety of taking the forty dollars. We kept sailing gently on, when it was agreed amongst them to accept the offer of our captain, who, vexed at what he considered an imposition, said he would not give more than thirty. Though voluble in abuse,

they could not out-face Capt. Smith, whose temper had been ruffled from the commencement of the hurricane. He swore they were worse than Italian picture-hawkers, who were content to ask as much again for an article as they intended taking for it. Finding they could not impose on the captain of the *Africa*, they sheered off, hinting that we must abide by the consequences to which his parsimony would subject us, as if we might rely on something fatal befalling us.

By bearing off the land a little, we had a fine view of the opening of a large bay, which I soon recognized. We were near to West End, St. Croix, which place I had recently left in the *James Campbell*. As I was the only person on board who knew it, I informed our captain of its name, also of the reefs and a sandbank that projected a considerable way into the sea, so that we were then actually within them ; one of the reefs, our mate, Mr. Harrison, could see from the mast head, though it was under water. From this knowledge, we got clear round, and came to an anchor in the bay, without paying seventy dollars, or sustaining any injury, such as the crew of the row-boat seemed to prognosticate, as they slunk away. We were now to repair damages sustained in the hurricane, during which we had the consolation to know that, though the *Africa* was as ugly as a tar-barrel, she was as tight as a well-corked bottle. Having a spare topmast on board, we got it from the booms upon deck :

but, being too thick at the head to pass the tressle trees, it required the carpenter's aid, on which he was employed, while the stump of the old one was getting down, and the rigging made ready. This effected, we set about getting it up, and should have succeeded, but that the heel of the mast being a little too full, prevented it passing through the tressle trees, in which it stuck fast. Our physical strength, aided by Captain Cooper's, was insufficient to raise it high enough for the fid to be put in.

Our complement of hands amounted to about twenty, one half of whom were below, reported sick ; some from indolence, others from fear of being detected as impostors, having shipt as able seamen, though it appeared that several of them had never been at sea before they left England, and had been to the West Indies during the season, to work as labourers, in the same way that the Irish come over to assist in reaping our harvest. Some of these cared not for receiving a drubbing, provided they made a little money, and got safe home again. In the conduct of these men, I saw that of too many journeymen in various handicraft and other occupations ; the most indifferent workmen being the greatest boasters, and the most forward in demanding an advance of wages. Those who were skulking below in the hour of difficulty, were the very men who had been holding out for an engagement by the run, and had nearly converted me into a runner !

Captain Smith finding all our efforts ineffectual, and suspecting foul play below deck, addressing himself to Capt. Cooper, said, " You see, Sir, we are fairly stuck fast, for want of strength in the industrious bees, and inclination in the drones ; suppose I turn doctor, and see if I cannot cure the lazy scoundrels who have imposed on me, and are still imposing on the more worthy part of the crew !" So saying, he called on the boatswain to furnish him with a piece of rope ; possessed of which, he went below amongst the runners, and soon made several of them run upon deck ; those whom he found in their hammocks, he cut down without ceremony. We could hear him address several by name, such as had worked days' work for him when at Grenada, saying, after naming them, " You are very sick, poor man ; an application of this two or three times will cure you ! here's physic for you, Sir !" laying about him with the rope, till the whole appeared upon deck, to the great satisfaction of those on whom they had been imposing, who were almost burst with laughing to hear them and their hammocks come bump on the bare boards, and to see them scamper before the captain, like as many mice before a cat. Seldom had I seen such a set of men together ; some, with handkerchiefs bound round their heads, looked ill indeed, nor was it to be wondered at, after being closely immured in a hot climate, in August, for three or four days, with little

or nothing to eat. Seeing what we were striving to effect, the whole fell to at the top rope, and the mast was shipt in five minutes.

“What do you think of my abilities as one of the faculty?” said our captain to Mr. Cooper. “That you are amazingly clever,” answered he; “restoring all your patients to the full use of their faculties, by means of that electrifying machine!” pointing to the piece of rope. The idea of a well-tarred rope’s end being styled an electrifying machine was not so shocking a comparison, as to fail of exciting laughter in our captain, who swore it was a specific in the most obstinate idleness. And, in justice to the ability of our captain as a doctor, I must without hesitation acknowledge, that I never saw a remedy applied with greater success, or one that operated more expeditiously. All were, by his physic, as he termed it, soon in a state of convalescence: the topmast was rigged in quick time; after which, a quantity of rum was served out, whose wonder-working effects completely established the health of the ten runners; five of whom were the very men who disgraced the rational character at Kelly’s funeral. The odium of that transaction was removed from the defenders of our country, the “hardy tar;” for, not one of the six who committed themselves ill on that occasion was a sailor: the five on board the *Africa* gave proof thereof for themselves.

We left West End that evening, completing a week

since we sailed from Grenada. If Captain Smith possessed a good temper previous to being so grossly imposed on, the imposition produced as great a change in it as he had wrought on the impostors: for he was peevish and morose with all on board, particularly with those whose conduct forced him to turn experimentalist. He was constantly hunting them up, to do some uncommon job. Two other men also, both of Bristol, who had sailed in this ship to Africa, but who had been paid off before Captain Smith became her officer, were subject to his severity. One of these men, named Ward, a blacksmith, prided himself on being brother to Joe and Will Ward, of pugilistic celebrity. The other, a butcher, named William Rowley, nearly fell a victim to cruelty, under a false accusation. Though at times I thought Captain Smith a tyrant, in maltreating them, I could not but pity him, considering the charge he had; a fine ship, and valuable cargo of West India produce, and surrounded by a set of such vile pretenders. Without vanity, I might rank with the best, and stood high in nautical knowledge, compared with the major part of them. Such was the effect of the disappointment he felt, that, in case of neglect of duty, or want of knowledge in any one, he would strike at those near him with whatever he could lay hold of! Such indiscriminate revenge constituted his tyranny. When inflamed by passion, and nothing near him with which he could inflict punishment,

I have frequently seen him pull off one of his shoes, and strike the object of his spleen with it.

But the most reprehensible and brutal part of his conduct arose out of the following circumstance:—Our boatswain and carpenter were joint partners in a small cask of rum, out of which the carpenter discovered that a quantity had been taken; which he communicated to the boatswain, who expressed great surprise, vowing vengeance on the thief, if discovered. He informing our captain, a search was immediately begun, and as, at that time, Rowley had the misfortune to be inebriated, he was charged with the theft; but he strenuously denied ever touching the rum in question, and ascribed the state he was in to having had a little with several of those who had a small stock of their own. As nothing was found on him, or in his possession, to criminate him, and as no one had seen him go to, or come from the cask, the whole charge rested on his being in a state of intoxication. And here the matter rested, till the owners of the rum had convinced the captain, by taking him to the cask, that a greater quantity had been drawn off than they could have consumed, in addition to their allowance. It was then concluded by this trio, that Rowley was guilty; of course, his accusers formed his jury, and judge also. The sentence passed on him was, that he should be clobbered; that is, receive a certain number of blows on the breech, from the slice used by the cook in making burgoo or hasty

pudding, generally a stout strong piece of hard wood. At the time the punishment was to be inflicted, I was painting or blackening the spritsail-yard; but hearing an unusual clamour near the fore-castle, and turning my head to ascertain its meaning, I found the noise was occasioned by bringing the supposed delinquent to the windlass, by a rope, there to be made fast, to receive his unmerited punishment. On such occasions, all hands on board are to be present; consequently the painting was left, and I joined the rest of the crew, when, to my great astonishment, the degrading work of arbitrary power was done by Capt. Smith himself, not with the cook's slice, but, for want of one, with the flat side of a hand-saw!

Rowley's declaration of innocence, in the most piteous manner, after each blow, instead of exciting commiseration, tended only to increase his punishment. The mode of executing it, I had often heard of, but never expected seeing it put in practice. A tail block was fastened to one of the fore-shrouds, and a rope reefed through the block; this done, our captain authoritatively called on me, commanding me to tie the poor fellow's thumbs together with a piece of spun yarn, which he handed to me; but, dread of offending the captain, who could calmly resort to such measures, and pity for the suffering Rowley, who continued to avow his innocence, caused such a sensation in my mind, that I made a bungling job of tying his thumbs, and

thereby displeased the judge in this cause, who pushed me away, and called on one of his accusers, the boatswain. He soon effected it, to the judge's satisfaction ; so could I have done, had Knowland of the *Hudibras*, or Simpson of the *Neptune*, been the culprit. Notwithstanding matters had proceeded thus far, we did not suppose that Captain Smith was really serious, but thought he wished to frighten the delinquent into a confession of guilt. But, what can an innocent person confess? Sometimes, indeed, fear overcomes the timid, and causes the stoutest to waver ; but Rowley was inflexible, and persisted in declaring his innocence, though he dreaded being drawn up by the thumbs, and said he would rather leap overboard. His most solemn asseverations had no effect on our captain ; up he was hoisted from the deck, and hung suspended, at least five feet therefrom, more than a quarter of an hour ; the whole of the time he called on heaven, in the most solemn and affecting manner, to bear witness to his innocence. To prevent his swinging to and fro by the motion of the ship, which he did at the first, ropes, or guys, were fastened to his legs, by which he was kept steady.

After a suspension, and a painful one it must have been, of the time above mentioned, down fell the unhappy and shamefully abused Rowley, leaving the skin and flesh of his thumbs sticking fast to the spun yarn with which they had been tied by his

accuser. One of his thumbs might have undergone an operation of the dissector's knife, being stript to the bare bone. As such punishment was inflicted by the order, and in the presence of our captain, unbiassed reason might conclude, that he himself was either drunk or mad: for my own part, I thought him both. His vindictive disposition was not yet satisfied; the unfortunate man was stripped naked; an empty bucket was placed on his head, by the unfeeling captain; a pair of bellows was next put under one of his arms, and the cook's large beef-fork under the other, by way of rendering him the mark of ridicule; but, few on board were depraved enough to laugh at suffering humanity, smarting under accumulating ills. In this trim, he was made to pace the deck; till, through loss of blood, and oppression of mind, he was ready to faint; which, the humane captain observing, very generously, that he might lengthen his sufferings, presented him with a glass of gin, holding it to the degraded man's mouth. May this infamous act of tyranny, cruelty, and injustice, be the last that has ever occasion to be recorded, to the disgrace of a British sea-captain!

Twilight was now about to give place to darkness, and the man at the helm sung out for lights to the binnacle. Candles were appropriated to that use, which, from being kept in wooden cases, in a hot climate, frequently stuck together, requiring to be separated with a knife, then rolled between two

boards, in order to re-shape them. This should have been done by Rowley and Ward, but, from the punishment and degradation of the former, was neglected by the latter, who, for such neglect, next came under the hands of the captain, another person being appointed to prepare the candles. The blacksmith's punishment was mild, compared with the butcher's, though nasty in the extreme, and was performed by our captain himself, who, taking a number of candles out of one of the cases, rolled them into balls about the size of walnuts, and absolutely crammed them down Ward's throat, attaching them to the end of a small stick for that purpose. How he liked Doctor Smith's physic below deck, I know not, but he took his tallow pills very quietly, scarcely daring to make a wry face, till at last he became very sick ; the captain frequently asked him, in a tantalizing manner, if he would have a glass of gin ? " As many as ever you please," was his reply. After some time, one was given to him, when he drank it with great avidity. This was a candle-light scene, having one burning in the lantern used by the cook ; the bottom of which was covered with bits of candles, dirty tallow, and pieces of matches with the brimstone on ; the whole of these he was compelled to eat, this last scene finishing the ignominious acts of the day ! Rowley had no other dressing to his thumbs than a piece of sail-cloth, smeared over with tallow. Capt. Cooper was not an idle or an indifferent

spectator of scenes so disgusting. He repeatedly interfered in behalf of the ill-treated Bristol men, though without effect.

Whoever was at the helm, if he did not steer to our captain's satisfaction, was sure to receive a blow from him, without the least ceremony, or an apology afterwards. The *Africa* was a difficult vessel to steer, especially when going before the wind, having a poop, and being very much by the head. He first drove one away, and then another, threatening vengeance against any one who should presume to appear there again. I was one of the last that received my discharge from the unpleasant station, and considered myself very fortunate in escaping chastisement for not performing impossibilities; though I must say that I never experienced any harsh treatment from him, but many civilities. The only time that he was angry with me was once, when I was at the helm; the vessel was then going before the wind, which acting on the poop, gave her a cast, thereby rendering the rudder nearly useless, till she was checked by the jib. Our captain, who was then in the cabin, finding her fly about, came up to me like a madman, seized hold of my elbow, saying, "Mr. Will, if ever I catch you here again, I'll make you glad to leap overboard!" Captain Cooper happening to be on the quarter-deck at the time, very generously interfered, and allayed his passion. I, however, remained at the helm the usual

time, and was succeeded by one Philip Gordon, a native of the Isle of Man: he, and a Danish sailor, were the only two on whom dependance could be placed by our captain: though we had some excellent sailors on board, had chance brought them sooner into notice; but all was haphazard with him, as he had not many favourites. Out of the whole crew, not more than three or four could boast of being free from the marks of his severity, prompting them to seek revenge; for which purpose a revolt was meditated.

Philip Gordon, who was much dissatisfied, was at the head of the contemplated mutiny, seconded by a Dane, named Jacob. As these two had to remain at the helm, in rotation, both day and night, two hours at a time, they, as a prelude to other measures, remonstrated with Captain Smith, who, seeming to acquiesce in their reasoning, admitted that it was too severe: but the admission was the effect of dissimulation. All hands were to be mustered on the quarter-deck, and as he had proved so successful a doctor, curing the most inveterate laziness, by bringing into action the most supine and skulking, by the simple operation of flagellation, the thoughtful man came to the resolution of trying an experiment for the cure of bad helmsmen. The wind was then on her starboard quarter; our lower and topmast studding-sails were set. We were divided into pairs, each couple to steer half an hour jointly, which was very lucky

for many, as a good steersman might get a bad one over a difficulty, besides which advantage, at the time the alteration took place she was not difficult to steer. The first and second pair managed well; myself and an active young man, named Thomas Armer, succeeded them, getting through very well also; the next two were faulty, when the captain, calmly, for a wonder, said, let me have the wheel; they complied, when he began explaining matters with as much precision, as if he was giving a lecture on the first rudiments of steering, detailing such things as every one must know, who could steer at all; but, dwelling too long over the king-spoke, which is one of the handles on the wheel, and generally marked, in order to shew when the helm is a midship, he got all aback, carrying away the studdingsail-booms! This mismanagement dissolved the meeting; all, except the two whose turn it was to be at the helm, dispersed, in order to take in the broken booms and sails. This catastrophe cured him, for the present, of trying experiments, and of finding fault with steering.

He, however, never lost sight of the runners; but took every opportunity of keeping them well employed, especially if there was any thing unpleasant to be done: to the relief of those in greater favour with him. This was strikingly manifested one night soon after. Indications of an approaching squall appearing, lightning flashing on the face of

night, quickly followed by loud peals of thunder, echoing through the lower regions of the atmosphere, he ordered the topgallantsails to be taken in, when up ran a sailor and I, intending to hand the main-topgallantsail ; but, when I had proceeded about half way up the main shrouds, the captain demanded, Who is that? A broad flash of lightning, which shone full on me, at the moment I answered his question, enabled him to satisfy himself. "Come you down, Will," said he, "and let two of those rascals go aloft, who are clewing up the sail." I immediately returned, and the two whom he fixt on went aloft for that purpose ; but, before they could hand it, the squall had overtaken us ; in vain they strove to effect what they were ordered to do, and might have wasted all their strength to no purpose, had not I and Dan Carr, an auld Scotchman and a gude sailor, gone aloft to their assistance, for the leach of the sail had got over the lee yardarm, with which they were tugging in the most awkward and unsailor-like manner, nearly frightened to death at the tremendous thunder that seemed to shake all nature, and lightning dreadfully vivid. I soon turned off the leach of the sail from the yardarm, and was in the act of handing it, along with the other, when the mainmast was struck with lightning, as well as the braw Scotchman and myself. The benumbing pain I felt in my right thigh for more than a minute, made me think it was broken. Carr

received his shock on the left side, he being close to the mast. What astonished me more than the shock I had received was, to see a light, apparently phosphoric, of the size of an egg, left on the lee yard-arm, where it remained for some time: timidity overcame my desire to ascertain its nature, and I durst not touch it. The next morning, though very lame with the shock I had received, I hobbled up aloft, with a view of seeing if any thing remained on the spot where the light had appeared the preceding night. On inspecting the place, I observed a mark, not as if burnt, but rather like a stain, as if something had been spilt thereon, or a liquid gum exuded out of the yardarm, and dried on its surface.

When our captain found that the two men could not, from ignorance and want of practice, hand the topgallantsail, he cursed and swore by main strength, wreaking his vengeance almost indiscriminately on all whom chance threw in his way. Gordon was struck at amongst the rest, which, fanning the embers of discontent, produced another conversation on the subject of revolt, terminating in a resolution that they would despatch the tyrant, if he ever again followed any of them up aloft, and there, as he had often done, ill treat them, in the most cowardly manner: for he had often, when in a passion, kicked the faces of several, while their hands were at work, and they were thereby prevented parrying the kicks off! by which mad acts many had

their faces lacerated, and bruised in the most shameful way.

Illiterate and eccentric as sailors, in the gross, generally are, they are commonly ingenuous and unsuspecting to the last degree; treat them kindly, they will venture their lives for you; speak them fair, they will reveal their whole souls to you. Some little time after being struck by the captain, without having omitted a duty, or committed an offence, Gordon was requested by his officer to repair his cot for him; he did so, and received a few glasses of grog for his trouble, which, like the fabled water of Lethe, washed away the remembrance of past injuries, and gave an unusual volubility to his tongue. The captain was now generous; the sailor thought him good; and, in the most undisguised manner revealed to him the projected plan of revolt, without trying to exonerate himself, or appearing conscious of betraying others.

A number of us were engaged reefing a topsail, at the time of disclosure; my station was at the weather-earring, which caused me to be nearly the last down on deck. Our captain, in possession of the grand secret, had come forward, and addressed something to each individually, as they passed him. To the man immediately before me, I heard him say, "Well, Mr. Johnson, you were one, I suppose, that intended throwing me overboard? I'll talk to you

by and by!" Johnson passed on. "Well, Mr. Will," said he, as I came on deck, "what part of the tragedy were you to perform?"—"None, Sir," said I, smilingly, and truly also, for he had never once ill treated me. "Aye, aye!" exclaimed he; "You'll cut a pretty dash when we get to London!" Sometimes he would jokingly remind us of the conspiracy, as he termed it, for he now began to be less severe, and, when all things went on well on board, he was even pleasant and good natured, and gave several proofs of a generous disposition, such as ordering an extra quantity of spirits to be given to each of us; not in a solitary instance, but frequently. Twice also, after he had discovered the imposition practised against him, while superintending the making of sea-pies, he presented us with several of his own fowls, for the purpose of bettering our Sunday's dinners, allowing us the usual quantity of ship's provisions besides; so that I think, as I then thought, his highly reprehensible conduct was more the effect of extreme vexation, than of a cruel disposition. Others, however, were of a different opinion, and ascribed his altered conduct to a desire to efface the recollection of the cruelties he practised in the early part of the passage. Be that as it may, Ward was the only one of the whole crew who now felt the captain's displeasure, in corporal punishment; he, unfortunate fellow, had it inflicted on him occasionally, till we got into the river Thames.

His offence lay in neglecting to change the water, in which the beef was steeping, once every hour during the night, for the purpose of rendering the meat more palatable on the ensuing day. On being discovered by Capt. Smith, he was certain of a cobbing, gently inflicted, except when our captain performed the task himself; then every blow told.

Nothing of moment occurred between the storm, and our getting well up the river. After a passage of six weeks, we moored at a swinging tier, opposite Union stairs; when, nearly the whole of those who had experienced severity of treatment left the ship, with a firm determination of instituting actions against Captain Smith, or of procuring warrants, to bring him to justice. Not a word was heard of the absentees for several days. Those who remained on board found employment enough in taking down the rigging, &c. Our cargo was put into lighters, to be taken to the custom-house wharf by men employed for the purpose, termed lumpers. On the fifth or sixth day of our men's absence, when we began to think the affair was forgotten, two strangers came on board the *Africa*, and inquired for Captain Smith.

The visages of these two visitors, used to scenes of callous insensibility, joined to their importunate interrogatories respecting our captain, convinced us that we had formed an erroneous opinion of the matter, and that something was going on to recover compensation for injuries sustained, or to bring him

to a sense of the impropriety of his conduct. As we had no knowledge of where Captain Smith was at that time, we directed the two stern-looking men to a large West Indiaman moored alongside of us, named either the Augustus or Julius Cæsar, as he had been on board of that ship some short time before. To the hands on board the West Indiaman they put the same questions as to us, with the same success; they were directed to another ship, and another after that, lying in the same tier. After being led a wild goose chase from ship to ship, till they began to suspect that they themselves were suspected, they returned on board the Africa. Our captain had done the same; and had retired into the cabin, to the door of which one of the two strange men crept as slowly as if afraid of disturbing sleeping innocence; but such were not his thoughts or fears. Never were the ears of prying eavesdroppers applied more intently, when trying to discover the mystic lore of masonry, than were those of the listener at the cabin door, to discover the object of their search. A gentle push from the man's left hand threw the door a jar, when a motion from his right (placing the forefinger of that hand obliquely across his nose) was used as a signal to his comrade, to inform him that the person whom they wanted was there. The man who stood at a short distance from the listener, kept a steady eye on his companion, who, immediately after taking a second peep into the cabin, and

resuming an erect posture, exclaimed, Shevo ! This was a watch-word, known to each other, and was no sooner pronounced than he who stood aloof sprang forward ; when both rushed into the cabin.

Several of us were close upon them ; they mentioned the name of William Rowley and others, shewed their authority, and secured the captain, wishing to force him into their boat : but in Captain Smith they found an obstinate customer, one who not only refused compliance, but who insisted on being put ashore as a gentleman should be, in a boat engaged to attend on the *Africa*, by a waterman of the name of Milne. Entreaties were in vain ; threats more so. Casting on them the most disdainful look, as if conceiving them too insignificant to be obeyed, he resisted their efforts, and triumphed. Finding him inflexible, and having heard that he was desperate when opposed, after much altercation they complied with his demand, and so far obliged him, as to allow him to go before a Magistrate of his own naming. It appeared he had prepared for such an event, for, finding bail without any difficulty, he was immediately liberated from the two gruff-looking fellows, and soon returned to the cabin of the *Africa*.

All this time I was principally employed on board the loaded lighters, taking them to the custom-house wharf, along with a custom-house officer ; and I had an opportunity of appreciating the worth of

honest servants, by witnessing the rascally conduct of men, who should be the guardians of property entrusted to their care. Being frequently under a necessity of remaining on board the lighter all night, in charge of it and its cargo, till they were taken possession of by the people at the wharf, the watchmen stationed there would pay me a visit, chat very freely, amuse me with anecdotes, and refresh me with liquors, &c. One night in particular, one of these trusty servants came up to the lighter, pitied a youth like me, exposed to the chillness of night air, after being so long in a hot climate, and very politely invited me to chase the cold from my stomach by partaking of some purl with him; and very pleasant I thought the warm beverage, as the night was very cold. After retailing numerous facetious jokes, and plying me well with hot bitters, I was astonished as much with a question he put to me, as I had been with the familiar manner in which Mr. Basket, of St. Simon's, had proposed to me to assist him in counterfeiting Spanish dollars. It was to render myself contemptible in my own eyes, and guilty in that of the law! For the bitters he had treated me with, he requested me to favour him with a little of the sweets entrusted to me, out of one of the hogsheads. The suddenness of the proposition so far counteracted the effects of the liquor, that I became, as if by magic, perfectly collected, though not very cool. Indignation nearly choked

me : as soon, however, as I could articulate, I told him I was sorry that he had so mean an opinion of me as to suppose me capable of so base and unprincipled an action ; that, whatever faults or foibles I had to answer for, breach of trust should never swell the catalogue : nor did I fail to express surprise that he, a watchman, should tempt youth to the commission of crime ! “ God help your weak notions,” said he, striving to laugh me out of my honesty ; “ why, it is nothing new or uncommon !” continued he. “ The antiquity of an evil can never palliate its enormity,” observed I, feeling the force of the remark as I made it, “ nor can the commonness of crime sanction its commission !” Assuming more gravity, though not more grace, the tempter replied, that without such perquisites, no man could exist as a watchman, their pay being so very little.

Desirous of hearing what sort of arguments hardened vice could adduce, in order to carry its point, at the same time determined to oppose its project, I remarked that, “ if a discovery should take place, the consequence would be disgrace to us both.”—“ That is the last thing we have to fear,” said the watchman, “ for the hogsheads are not yet weighed ; therefore, if you will leave that to me, I will manage the business as it should be.”—“ That would be difficult,” said I, still anxious to hear his observations, “ as the end of a hogshead would have to be opened, and made secure again, and we have not any thing

in the lighter that could be employed to effect such a purpose." Taking my parleying with him for a consent to his proposal, he stept out of the lighter upon the wharf, but very soon returned, bringing with him another man, who was provided with cooper's tools necessary to answer the end proposed. I had scarcely time to reflect on the folly I had committed, in entering into conversation with this guardian of public safety, ere he and his auxiliary came up to me, and without much ceremony were proceeding to open a hogshead. "Avast," said I, "you have mistaken your man! I am too young in crime to connive at rascality; therefore, if you lift your adze against the hogshead, I will immediately give an alarm."—"D—n you and your alarm too!" said the chagrined cooper, who swore he would not be made a fool of by any one, casting on me a look such as imagination paints on the countenance of Cain, when in the act of murdering his unoffending brother. The cooper's passion vented itself in imprecations; when I, instead of giving, took the alarm, and repaired to the other end of the lighter, in order to be out of his reach. Fury still glistened in his eyes, and I really thought he would have despatched me with one of his tools, and tumbled me overboard. Though he might have read timidity in my face, yet the manner in which I assured them I would give the alarm, convinced them that I was serious, and not to be bought over to

their views. The cooper, after bestowing on me some of the most extravagant oaths that vulgarity ever conceived, slunk ashore ; leaving his worthy colleague in the lighter, who, in a little time, crept over the hogsheads towards me. But, as I had already had more of his company than was pleasant to me, I was preparing to remove, when he came up to me, inquired the reason of my alarm, and hypocritically said, the whole transaction was a plot, concerted purposely to try my honesty, and that he was glad to find me such a worthy young man, as very few people were to be trusted. “ Especially,” said I, “ amongst a number of unweighed hogsheads of sugar, if in possession of tools to open them.” This unexpected remark disconcerted the watchman, who, after paying me a few compliments, sneaked away, much calmer than the disappointed cooper. As soon as I was relieved from the lighter, I left the wharf, went over Tower-hill, &c. to Union-stairs, repaired on board the *Africa*, and informed Captain Smith of what had happened, who took no further notice of the affair.

About half our cargo was discharged, when Capt. Smith received notice for trial ; he and Mr. Wyatt, the boatswain, began to have frequent conversations together. The important day of trial arrived, when the captain, previously to leaving the ship, interrogated me respecting the mutiny ; also, if I knew of any of the people having taken sugar out of the

hogsheads during the passage? Truth compelled me to criminate myself; I told him candidly, that every man before the mast had taken toll, more or less. “That is enough, Will,” said he: “you will have to go ashore with me in the afternoon, make yourself as clean and respectable as you can.” I now had reason to suppose the captain intended charging the plaintiffs with embezzlement, he having previously taken small samples out of different hogsheads, marking on the envelope of each the quantity supposed to be taken out of the respective hogsheads, doubtless greatly exaggerated. Afternoon came; Captain Smith, the boatswain, and myself got into the boat, proceeded to the stairs, and soon landed. On our way, the two officers were in close and constant conversation, but from my situation in the boat, I could not learn the nature of their discourse. As I had no strong desire to give evidence either in favour of or against my shipmates, not knowing whether my testimony would not do the captain more harm than good, I was well pleased when he told me I might go on board again, as he could do without me. I had not an opportunity of hearing the particulars of the trial, but learned that the captain was acquitted, in consequence of his proving embezzlement, and intended mutiny, against his accusers; one of whom informed me afterwards, that the quantity of sugar sworn to by Captain Smith as missing, amounted to fourteen hundred weight. But, though

acquitted, he received a severe reprimand, as no doubt the public journals of the day, October, 1788, will prove, on a reference to their columns.

Having discharged the cargo of the *Africa*, and taken down the whole of the rigging, except the lower standing rigging, the hands remaining on board received notice to attend the counting-house of Messrs. Baileys, St. Swithin's-lane, London, in order to be paid off. As I had been there once before with a large but sickly turtle, I knew the way, and, accompanied by three or four of the crew, repaired thither for that purpose. It was required of each person to deliver in his name; they did so, and received their wages according to agreement; each retiring to the door as he was paid off. I was the last; when, in answer to my application, I was informed that they had not received any orders to pay me! What! a passenger again, said I to myself, and instantly thought of Captain Dale's unprincipled conduct to me! Another trick, said I, to one standing by. When a gentleman in the counting-house, close to us, hearing me complain, turned his head, and, reading in my face the disappointment of mind I laboured under, asked my name, in a mild tone of voice. "Butterworth," Sir, said I, rather despairingly. "If so," said the gentleman, "you must go on board again; we have further business for you, before we pay you off: you will be informed by Capt. Smith any thing you may wish to know respecting

your wages." Bowing to the gentleman, I thanked him for his welcome intelligence respecting the one thing needful, left the counting-house, and, in company with those who had received the reward of their labours, went to the stairs, where we found some difficulty in getting put on board the flogging Africa, as the watermen denominated her, after the trial. Perhaps these men conceived that we were in the interest of Captain Smith, or had not afforded his opponents the support they might expect from us; for they frequently abused us, and evinced the strongest marks of prejudice against us.

The boatswain was on board when we got to our vessel, in the act of preparing to leave her. Observing, as I thought, something suspicious in his very looks, my whole attention was directed towards him; after some little time, I saw him secreting a number of bottles, seemingly filled with rum, which, he said, he would fetch away on the following day. Taking his trunk along with him, he went ashore, nor ever returned on board, during the time of my stay in London. In the evening of the same day, the carpenter came on board; to whom, in casual conversation, I mentioned the circumstance of Mr. Wyatt's concealing the bottles. Whether he suspected any thing unfair in the boatswain's dealing with him, in the rum, or not, I could not tell at the moment, but thought he did, from the eagerness with which he asked me how many bottles were

concealed? Not knowing, I answered him accordingly: he next expressed a desire to see them, and soon had his desire gratified. "Oh, the domned scoondrel!" exclaimed the exasperated North Briton, after counting them over, observing that, "when they divided the remaining part of their sea stock, three bottles each was the amount of such stock, when here the scoondrel has five, besides what he may ha' carried awa' i' his trunk!" "What think you, Wully," said he, "o' the boatswain being the thief, an stealing the rum, for which poor Rooley suffered so much?"—"The crime, if committed by the boatswain," said I, "who charged Rowley with it, and tied the unfortunate man's thumbs together, equals the blackest act of villany recorded in the Newgate calendar!"—"I had some suspicion, Wully, at the time," rejoined the carpenter, "that Wyatt had drawn some o' the rum off, without my knowledge, but I had nae proof o' it: noo, I am convinced o' the fallow's arrant knavery!"

The following morning, the whole of the hands, except myself, left the ship: in the course of the day Captain Smith visited me, explained the reason why I had not received my wages, and apologized for having omitted to mention it before, as it would have set my mind at ease, and saved me the trouble of going to Messrs. Baileys, to whom our cargo was consigned, and who were the owners of the boat belonging to the ship Baileys, of London, mentioned

page 430. He told me these gentlemen were desirous to befriend me, wishing to retain me in their employ, but said he could not give an opinion on the subject, as I had so often expressed my determination to renounce the sea ; he, however, wished me well, and hoped the choice I should make would tend to my future advancement in life. I thanked him for his good wishes, assuring him that I should not remain in the sea service, or go another voyage. I now found myself in charge of the *Africa*, the captain seldom coming on board.

I had not been ship-keeper more than two or three days, when two gentlemen came on board and looked over the ship. Addressing themselves to me, they inquired if I had considered to remain on board ? “ I have determined, Gentlemen,” I answered, “ to have nothing more to do with the sea.”—“ Indeed ! young man,” said one of them, “ perhaps your reason against a seafaring life may be overcome by sound arguments, if we knew it.”—“ To me, Sir,” said I, “ it is as irksome as precarious, and, hitherto, has proved as unprofitable as unpleasant !”—“ That we can and will remedy,” replied the other, “ if you can reconcile yourself to the life, under more auspicious circumstances, than you have as yet been placed. You are highly recommended by Captain Smith ; we have a vessel intended to sail up the Mediterranean, and have waited on you to engage you, if possible, to hold a situation in that vessel,

well worth your attention." When I pointed out the impossibility of ever soaring higher than a man before the mast, from being ignorant of the important science of navigation, I was asked if I knew the four great rules of arithmetic—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division?"—"As school boys generally do," said I, "but I have not had much practice since I left the desk."—"If you will engage with us, we will be at the expense of educating you in navigation, during the arrangement for the ship leaving England."—"I can only thank you, Gentlemen," returned I, "for your attention to my welfare; but I have resolved to return home, where I have a prospect of advancement superior to any that you can offer, at the same time that it is more congenial to my own inclination and the wishes of my friends." Finding me inflexible, we parted; they to return ashore, whither my good wishes followed them, in return for their intended kindness to me.

The day following, I had another visit from the captain, who informed me of his intention of leaving London for Lancaster, expressing a desire to see me comfortably rigged out before he left town, so that I might return home in a respectable manner; and promising to accompany me to a clothes-broker, where he knew he could make a more advantageous bargain than I could, if left to myself, in the purchase of such articles as were necessary to equip me for my intended expedition. Again he left me, but

returned in the morning, bringing my wages along with him. We soon after found our way to a clothes-warehouse, where I furnished myself with a much better wardrobe than if he had not been there ; without being taxed for his trouble, as I was by Mr. Deacon, of Liverpool, for the service he rendered me in a slop-shop in that town. My new purchase reduced my stock of money to about thirty shillings ; however, as I intended returning home by water, I deemed that sum sufficient to cover my expenses thither. Before we parted for the last time, he gave me the best advice for the guidance of my future conduct in life ; expressed himself well pleased with the determination I had come to of returning home ; and represented his own situation as peculiarly distressing, brought about by the conduct of the runners ; to vindicate himself against whose charges he had spent nearly the whole savings of his last two years labours, as he had been that length of time from home, and was about to return to his wife and family, with scarcely a sufficiency of money to defray his expenses on the road home ! I felt much for the man, as tears trickled down his cheeks, when ascribing his misfortunes to the cause just before mentioned, as I really believed he was driven to desperation on the passage, by the censurable and villanous conduct of some of the skulking crew ; who ultimately ruined him in his finances, causing him to throw away his hard-earned money, in employing counsel to rebut their charges.

Mutually wishing each other well, we parted at the door of the broker's where I purchased my long clothes ; I immediately took them on board, where I found a person, who was appointed to succeed me in charge of the ship ; of whom I got information where I could meet with the Hull and Selby traders, viz. at the Gun and Shot Wharf. Agog for home, though I knew not how I should be received when I got there, I followed his instructions, and soon met with a Mr. Staniland, master of the sloop Unity, bound for Selby, and intended to sail the next morning. To Captain Staniland I mentioned my desire, who in the most friendly manner offered me a passage : so that I had nothing to do but bid farewell to my shipmates, who lodged at the Three Tuns, Ratcliff-highway. I visited them, and found some of Captain Smith's prosecutors very ill off for clothes, and destitute of money, having thrown it away in law ! Two of them, good seamen, but unfortunate, requested me to favour them with some of my sea-faring clothes, as in all probability I should never wear them more, and they had scarcely any to wear. With all my heart, was my answer, on one condition ; but before I mentioned the proviso, I took them with me to the person nominated to the charge of the Africa, in whose care I was going to leave my hammock, clothes, &c. with this injunction, that if I did not return in the course of three weeks from that day, to give whatever I should tie up together to

the two men, as it might be presumed I was well received at home. Matters thus arranged, they thanked me for my promised favour: we shook hands and parted, wishing each other better luck than any we had hitherto met with.

At the appointed time and place, I waited on Captain Staniland, and found the *Unity* just ready to sail. It was the thing of all others I most earnestly desired, though I knew not how to face home, after an absence of three years, spent in obscurity and unprofitableness, without having transmitted to any of my friends a single line to assure them I was in the land of the living, or one to my parents expressive of repentance for the folly I had been guilty of, or regretting my situation, so much worse than the one I was anxious to escape from, before I had drunk of disappointment's cup. But I was fixed in my resolve of returning home, let my reception be what it might. To accomplish my object, I entered the *Unity*, more reflectively and coolly than I jumped on board the *Hudibras*, when afraid of missing anticipated pleasures, in the loss of a birth on board of that ship.

The sloop soon dropped down the river, and in five days arrived at Selby, whence I purposed going to Leeds by the canal; but when I considered that I was only twenty miles from home, and under nineteen years of age, I thought shame on the notion of being a day or two in going that distance, some-

times cooped up in locks, waiting the slow motion of the water to bring us to a level; at other times unable to gain admission, by reason of other vessels wanting the same accommodation, and having a prior claim. So, throwing my bundle over my shoulder, pendant from the end of a rudely-formed stick, containing ten times more clothes than all my wardrobe had consisted of for many months together, I set off to walk; and, by making the best use of my feet, and time too, I arrived at Peckfield at dusk, twelve miles from Selby, and eight from Leeds. Unused to march such a long stage at once, I felt much fatigued, when, most opportunely, a coach overtook me; I mounted; and in little more than an hour found myself in the arms of an indulgent mother, encircled by other branches of the family, all overjoyed at beholding the returned prodigal, for whom the fatted calf was soon killed.

My father was from home on my arrival, and from him I expected the severest censure; but happily escaped, though not without being blamed for not writing home to certify my existence. And I frankly acknowledge, that a sense of my undutifulness preyed on my mind, at intervals, during the whole time of my parent's life. As an excuse for never having written, I urged the unpleasantness of my situation, a knowledge of which I was convinced would prove a fresh source of grief to them all. It

satisfied them, though they assured me they had not received the least information respecting me, till a few months previous to my return, when an uncle of mine from Manchester accidentally met with Mr. Aspinall, of the *Hudibras*, in Liverpool, from whom he as accidentally learned that I was in the hospital at Grenada, the last time that gentleman saw me, only waiting for an effectual cure of an ulcerated leg, heartily tired of a seafaring life in general, and of Guinea captains in particular! After answering a thousand questions, some of them the strangest that were ever framed into such, I retired to rest, and forgot all my past privations in the luxury of a good feather bed. Two or three of the first days after my return were devoted to an examination of the improvements and enlargement of my native town, and by way of resting myself, as my friends were pleased to term it.

After gratifying my curiosity in that respect, I had a rolling-press fitted up to my own mind, and not only submitted to, but cheerfully wrought at copperplate-printing, thankful in having escaped from the drudgery of the life of a man before the mast. At this laborious employment, in the retirement of a garret, I had leisure to reflect on the consequences resulting from a disobedience of parents, against the practice of which I would caution my juvenile readers, with as much earnestness as I

would their approach to a house infected with the plague. This destroys the body ; that, “ peace of mind and hopes of solid happiness ! ” Though now comparatively happy, my mind soon panted after higher attainments ; and, as engraving promised a much more genteel, as well as an easier life, I soon became discontented that I had not any practical knowledge of it ; for I was now approaching towards manhood, and foresaw that if I neglected the present, the future might never be mine. Therefore, having some pretensions to drawing, and a tolerable capacity for learning any branch of science that claimed my attention, I was not without hopes of being able to acquire some proficiency in the art, provided I could reconcile myself to the sacrifice of time and pleasure, that such an undertaking would necessarily demand. I pondered on the subject incessantly ; weighed the matter over deliberately ; and fortunately resolved on making the necessary sacrifice. Convinced that “ procrastination is the thief of time,” I set about the object in view, with an ardour not to be repressed by common occurrences, or the difficulties inseparable from such an undertaking, applying myself to it with the zeal of a young convert, doubling my assiduity as I saw a prospect of success crowning my efforts.

The lark’s early song cheered my morning’s endeavours, while the cricket’s shrill chirpings announced

the approach of midnight, inviting me to leave the sickly lamp, over which I had now leaned till nature was tired. As perserverance had been my motto when I first entered the *Hudibras*, I still retained it, or adopted it anew, and was, under its influence happily successful in my new pursuit; so far as to be enabled, when occasion offered, aided by the knowledge I had gained of rigging, &c. to undertake to engrave a series of plates, large quarto, one hundred and eleven in number, containing five hundred and eighty-seven figures, illustrative of "The Young Sea Officer's Sheet Anchor," by Darcy Lever, Esq. To which work, after passing the ordeal of criticism, and obtaining from the *British Critic*, the *Anti-Jacobin*, and the *Monthly Review*, an author's best reward, "the meed of praise," I proudly refer the connoisseur, who may feel disposed to form his own judgment on the execution of the graphic undertaking.

In renouncing the sea, I, for a long time, led a more busy, though a more pleasant life; as I not only followed copperplate-printing for a livelihood, but painted in crayons and oil for improvement; learned music; practised engraving on copper with the greatest assiduity, with a view to advancement in life; studied theoretically, with the closest application, the rudiments of engraving on gems and stones; and soon began to reduce to practice the

result of my observations on this branch of the art. This line I have now successfully practised nearly twenty years, and from it I continue to derive pleasure and profit, it being the hobby of my genius, if I have any ; for seldom a day passes without witnessing me mounted thereon, paying a visit to the Herald's Court ; so greatly are times and circumstances changed, since I was rummaging amongst the pump gear of a slave ship, in hopes of finding a pair of half-worn trowsers, not having any other to put on !

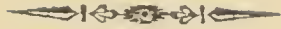
As Leeds followed the example of the metropolis, in raising a Corps of Volunteers, commanded by Colonel Lloyd, I formed one of that corps ; in which service I remained eight years. Part of that time I was in the band.

Strange are the vicissitudes of eventful time, and inscrutable the ways of Providence ! In the sunshine of prosperity, therefore, bask not in heedless apathy ! In the gloom of adversity, yield not to despondency ! Cultivate the social virtues at home, in preference to seeking adventure abroad ; for bitter are the draughts drunk from disappointment's cup, and few indeed are the adventurers who have not drained its dregs from the bottom, though deep and capacious. Adventure promises much, but performs little. Covet not then, ye youths of Britain, to tread on such uncertain ground ! Its paths are intricate,

and, at best, dangerous ! Here and there small plots of flowering shrubs delight the eye ; but much more frequently extensive wilds, rugged and barren, present a dreary prospect, creating despondency and exciting alarm !

FINIS.

ERRATA.



Page. Line.

- 19....11....for *slung* read *got*.
35.... 1....for *the* read *these*.
61....20....expunge the word *the*.
72....23....after the word *casualties* read *of life*.
81....18....for *boat* read *canoe*.
94....25....for *flood* read *ebb*.
133.... 8....for *two* read *several*.
201....14....for *boat* read *lighter*.
207....14....for *in* read *on*.
275.... 9....for *translucent* read *numerous*.
281....20....for *oatcakes* read *hoecakes*.
282....21....for *Du Cayne* read *Du Quesne*.
373....20....for *Leu* read *Len*.
429.... 1....for *the* read *A*.
447....26....expunge the word *ill*.

